LOST PUBS – A

The Abercrombie Arms
Abercrombie Street, Landport

Located by HM Dockyard, close to Unicorn Gate, Abercrombie Street has been lost without trace since the end of the Second World War. The pub in the photograph replaced a beerhouse of the same name and was built in 1911 – as depicted on its tiled fascia. Part of the Long's Brewery estate, the Abercrombie was the victim of a bombing raid in 1941. It was one of a number of pubs that could be found on this street, including the Lion and the Trafalgar.

The Admiral's Head
90 Kingston Crescent, North End

Located a hundred yards or so from the White Hart (see elsewhere), the Admiral's Head occupied a small corner plot at the junction of Kingston Crescent and Gamble Road. Dating from around the middle of the 19th century, the pub was once part of the Pike Brewery estate until ending up in the Brickwood's portfolio. Whitbread's takeover of Brickwood's in 1971 led to the demise of dozens of pubs across town and the Admiral's Head closed its doors in 1981 to become offices. As can be seen in the left-hand photograph, it has now found new use as a Pizza parlour.

Colour photograph 15th July 2007.

The Admiralty Tavern
39 Spring Street, Landport

One of many pubs that could once be found in and around the Charlotte Street market area of the city centre, the Admiralty Tavern started life as the Admiralty Arms, acquiring its latter name in the mid 19th century. The original pub survived until 1940, when it became a casualty of enemy bombing during World War II. A Brickwood's pub from Victorian times until that company's takeover by Whitbread in 1971, the Admiralty was rebuilt in 1962, to an austere design typical of that era. The death knell for the tavern came in 1987, when plans were confirmed for the redevelopment of the Charlotte Street area. The pub was demolished that year and its footprint now stands beneath the Cascades shopping centre.

Colour image from cine footage taken in 1977.

The Air Balloon
Mile End Road (formerly 598 Commercial Road), Rudmore

The Air Balloon, situated on the corner of Flying Bull Lane, Mile End is one of Portsmouth's architectural gems, designed by architect A H Bone. Similar in appearance to his White Swan on Guildhall Walk, it comprises a mixture of stone, flint and wood on its exterior and is built in half-timbered *brewers tudor* style, popular around the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. Of particular note are the ornately-carved caryatids that flank two of the entrances. Sadly, by the summer of 2005 this once-popular destination pub stood empty awaiting conversion to flats.

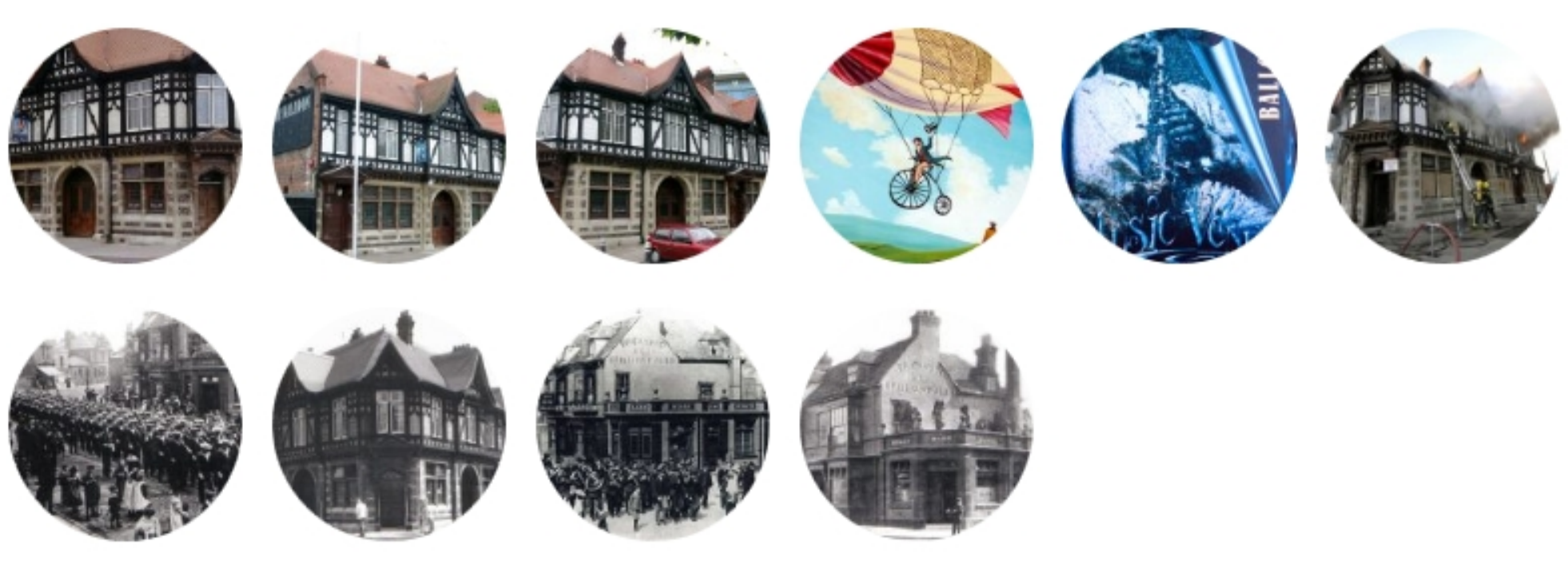
On 22nd May 2007 the pub was extensively damaged in an arson attack which resulted in the loss of its ground floor stained glass windows. News of the incident made front page headlines in the Portsmouth *News* the following day. Fortunately, the building was fully restored externally following the damage caused. The listed nature of the pub meant that faithful reproductions of the damaged doors and stained glass windows were installed to retain the building's character.

The two Victorian photographs seen below show the original Brickwood's-owned Air Balloon standing at the junction of Commercial Road and Garfield Road. This was the building that immediately pre-dated the 1888 structure that stands today. The bottom right-hand photo depicts a naval parade as it heads past the pub and along Commercial Road towards the city centre. The bottom left-hand photograph depicts the pub in the 1960s, clearly showing the adjacent housing that stood in this part of the city at the time.

Today, the area is a mix of ugly council flats and office blocks, which has done nothing to enhance the character of the neighbourhood, giving the centre of Portsmouth one of the worst main approaches of any British city.

Today, the Air Balloon is a mixture of office space and private accommodation, though to the unsuspecting passer-by, it could well still be a trading public house.

Colour photographs: (left to right): 14th August 1988; 6th August 2005; 6th August 2005; January 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); August 2003 (by Ray Scarfe); 22nd May 2007 (courtesy Hampshire Fire & Rescue).



The Albany (The Mighty Fine)
106 Commercial Road, Landport

Originally the Commercial Hotel and also once trading under the names of Smith's Hotel and The Dive during the late 19th century, many will remember this pub during its time as the notorious Mighty Fine. Rechristened as such in 1976, the pub may have sported a new guise, but 'mighty fine' it certainly wasn't! The pub soon became known as one of Portsmouth's most infamous drinking establishments – note the lack of windows in the photograph to the right!

The Webmaster recalls a cavernous one-roomed pub, with a DJ's booth in one corner. The pub also featured strippers and was thus popular with the Royal Navy. The Mighty Fine eventually became seriously rundown and a major refurbishment in 1991 saw it reopen once more as the Albany (reflecting the name shown on the attractive tiling by the entrance doors). The house enjoyed a resurgence in popularity again with the Royal Navy for whom the pub arranged 'service personnel only' nights. For reasons unknown, the pub closed its doors some time in 2006 and in May 2007 was the subject of a planning application to convert the premises to a branch of the Northern Rock bank, with flats above, though the company later backed out of plans to go ahead with the occupancy. There now remains just a single pub trading on Commercial Road – once a street containing numerous drinking establishments. These days, the buildings that once housed this pub are now occupied by an amusement arcade and retail premises.

Photographs, left to right: 19th September 2004; 9th July 2007; 18th February 1990.

The Alexandra
Wingfield Street, Buckland

Starting life as the Queen Alexandra, this pub was built in 1976 to service the inhabitants of the sprawling Buckland estate. Originally part of the Ind Coope estate, in the 1980s the house became one of only six pubs on Portsea Island owned by Bass Breweries. It served out the last years of its life under the ownership of national pubco Punch Taverns, until finally closing in mid 2012 following the resignation of the licensee.

By 2014 the pub was sold off and has become one of many converted to convenience stores.

Photographs, left to right: 13th July 2008; 30th September 2006; April 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 30th February 1990.

The Alma Arms
193 Highland Road, Eastney

This small community local has stood on this site since at least the middle of the 19th century and retained the same name throughout its life. Owned by Hurst & Co toward the end of the 1800s, the Alma was among a large number of pubs that could once be found on Highland Road. Often looking rather neglected, the pub was once in the hands of the notoriously awful Watney's brewery (thankfully the only house on Portsea Island that was). The pub later became the property of Enterprise Inns and had somewhat of a chequered existence in its later life. Enterprise Inns offloaded the pub, after a prolonged closure, in June 2015 for conversion to six flats. The top left-hand photograph shows the building being stripped out, with the ground floor rear wall completely removed.

Photographs (left to right): 9th November 2015; 31st May 2011; 19th September 2004; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 4th February 2007; 13th July 2008; 11th May 1989.

The Alma Tavern
44 (110) Blackfriars Road, Southsea

Located on Blackfriars Road, at its junction with Upper East Street, the Alma Tavern was a Victorian Brickwood's house that disappeared from the map almost one hundred years ago. The photograph below dates from the 1910s and depicts the pub's final licensee, Albert Grace, who's name appears above the door.

The Alver Arms
52 Guildford Road, Fratton

This long-closed street-corner tavern could be found at the junction of Alver Road and Guildford Road, in Fratton's densely populated residential district. A Brickwood's house, the pub served its last pints in around 1948.

Photograph 29th July 2007 (courtesy of Rob Hall).

The Argyle
63 Queen Street, Portsea

Dating back to the 18th century, this old pub previously traded under the names of the Golden Bell and Bell Tavern before adopting its latter name in 1875. A Pike Spicer pub, it was one of many that once lined the length of Queen Street. Last orders were served as long ago as 1888 and the building is now a private residence.

Photographed 29th November 2015

The Ashburton Arms
52/54 Church Road, Fratton

Still to be found at the western end of Church Road, at its junction with Union Place, this old Jewell's pub traded from the 19th century and retained the same name until its closure in 1982. Still instantly recognizable as a former pub, the house was part of the Brickwood's estate when it served its last pints. It has long since been converted to housing. The right-hand photograph shows the pub on the left side of the image.

Colour photograph 15th July 2007. Right-hand photograph 3rd October 1946.

The Avenue Hotel
314 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw

A late-Victorian hotel, designed by A E Cogswell for the Pike Spicer brewery, the Avenue offered bed and breakfast accommodation (albeit very basic and poorly-maintained) until its closure in early 2012. The pub featured a large, single bar room, with separate function room. The Avenue suffered from both a lack of investment and poor footfall – and some of the clientele that did use the pub were known to be a little shady!

Before the pub closed for good, it was offered on the freehold market for around £450,000 – a price that no individual or pub company would ever pay to keep the pub as a going concern. Conversion to alternative use was therefore inevitable and the building was divided into a number of apartments in 2013.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2oo6; June 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 14th August 1988.

Next Page...

LOST PUBS – B

The Bakers Arms
Commercial Road, Landport

Once located in the area now popularly known as Commercial Road South, the Bakers Arms existed for around two hundred years. As can be seen in the photograph, the pub was owned by Portsea brewers Brickwood's, having earlier been in the hands of local rivals Pike Spicer. The pub served its last pints in 1914, being demolished soon after (at a time when the city was losing many of its pubs).

The Bakers Arms was reportedly the subject of a court case involving the pub's licensee, Mr Pitt, and a local clergyman, Charles Joseph. The Reverend was proved to have slandered the pub during a sermon and was fined the hefty sum of £200. After refusing to pay the fine, the congregation of Lake Road Baptist Church had a collection to save the reverend from a gaol term.

The Bakers Arms
1 Holloway Street, Landport

The Bakers Arms could be found at the junction of Holloway Street and Railway View. The pub allegedly took its name from the fact that the original licencee, James Putman, was both a publican and a Baker, owning a bakery on North Street, Portsea. The photograph here depicts the pub in the early 20th century, when it appears to have been owned by a Burton-based brewer. The pub later transferred to the Brickwood's estate and remained trading into the 1930s. Holloway Road has long since disappeared from the map.

The Barleycorn
42/44 Great Southsea Street, Southsea

This late-Victorian street-corner local on Great Southsea Street was built in 1898 to replace an older pub on the same site. Originally owned by Symon's Brewery of Winchester, the house changed hands a number of times due to a succession of company takeovers – spending time in the hands of Long's, Brickwood's and lastly, Whitbread. The Barleycorn survived until 1988, at which time it was closed and converted to flats.

Photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; 1958.

The Barrack Cellars
2 Eastney Road, Eastney

Occupying the site of the former World's End pub on the corner of Eastney Road and Henderson Road, the Barrack Cellars was another of those Eastney pubs to be named with reference to the local Royal Marines barracks nearby. The building in the photographs dates from the late Victorian era and was owned by Portsmouth United Breweries. The pub later transferred to the Brickwood's portfolio and survived until 1972, when, under new ownership of the mighty Whitbread, it was demolished due to road widening.

Left-hand photograph kindly supplied by Alan Reeves.

The Battle of Minden
127 St Mary's Road, Kingston

Constructed in 1946 to replace the original Battle of Minden which was bombed out during the war, this pub was very much a locals' local. The house was the last survivor out of five hostelries that once traded on St Mary's Road (see elsewhere on these pages for details of the others) and was reputedly unique in being the only one in Britain to bear this name.

A Long's pub until 1934, the Battle of Minden was taken over by Brickwood's following that company's acquisition of the former. In 1971 it was absorbed into the vast Whitbread portfolio before passing to Enterprise Inns in the early 21st century.

In 2012 the house was sold by Enterprise to local firm, Kipcroft Properties who continued running the pub with the same licensee at the helm. Sadly the house struggled to attract a viable level of trade as more and more former pub goers chose instead to drink at home. The plug was finally pulled at the end of January 2017, when last orders was called permanantly and the licensee went into retirement. The building is likely to converted to a shop or private accommodation.

Photographs, left to right: 29th November 2015; 14th August 2005; November 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); July 1990.

The Beacon
Allaway Avenue, Paulsgrove

The Beacon was one of five pubs in Paulsgrove that have been lost to redevelopment in the last twenty years. Situated on the corner of Ludlow Road and Allaway Avenue, close to many of the estate's local amenities, the Beacon was one of the most popular pubs in Paulsgrove. Unfortunately, as was the case with many of the pubs in the area, the Beacon suffered from a poor reputation due to having a number of undesirable patrons. The Webmaster recalls at least one major disturbance being reported on the local news shortly before the pub was forceably closed by Hampshire Constabulary. The building was the victim of an arson attack shortly afterwards and was eventually demolished, to be replaced with housing.

Inn sign photograph courtesy of Ray Scarfe.

The Bear & Ragged Staff
45 Queen Street, Portsea

One of the longest surviving former pubs in the city of Portsmouth, this old beerhouse was part of the Pikes Brewery estate and closed as long ago as 1845. By 1918 the premises was home to a jewellers and these days is occupied by an IT company.

Photographed 29th November 2015.

The Bear & Staff
28 North Street, Portsea

Located immediately to the north of Queen Street, in a position roughly facing west towards Prince George Street, the Bear & Staff was a prominent Victorian pub, constructed in the early 19th century and refaced for Brickwood's in 1907 in *brewers tudor* style. The pub survived until January 1964, at which time it was demolished along with a large part of the neighbourhood, for the redevelopment of Portsea.

The Bedford Arms
191 Kingston Road, Buckland

Situated on busy Kingston Road, on the corner of Bedford Street, the Bedford Arms was once part of the Blake's Brewery (Gosport) estate, before passing to Brickwood's in the 1920s and, ultimately, Whitbread in 1971. The pub was bulldozed in November 1974 as part of the redevelopement of the Lake Road area.

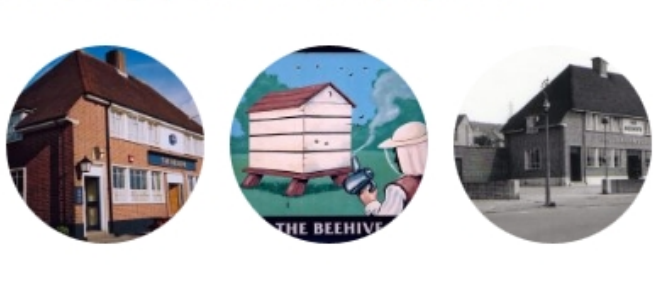
The Bedford In Chase
14 The Hard, Portsea

Known as the New Bedford in the 18th century – and briefly as the Widow Arms, the name Bedford In Chase can be traced back as far as 1823. Part of the Pike Brewery estate (late Pike Spicer), the pub was later taken over by Brickwood's, who's livery can be seen on the frontage in the photograph below (right-hand building). The house was the victim of a bomb raid on 22nd Dec 1940 – an attack in which the incumbent licensee, George S Barton, was killed. Nowadays the site is home to a modern apartment block.

The Beehive
52 Ludlow Road, Paulsgrove

One of half a dozen public houses that could once be found on the sprawling Paulsgrove council estate, built to house many of the residents of Portsmouth who found themselves homeless following the extensive bombing raids on the city during World War II. Planning permission was granted in 1955 and the house was completed the following year. The Beehive quenched the substantial thirsts of its regular (and sometimes troublesome) customers for almost 50 years before the death knell came with the approval of a planning application in 2005 to demolish the pub and build twelve houses on the site. The Beehive therefore became the most recent Paulsgrove pub to close, leaving just the Cross Keys remaining.

Colour photographs October 2000 (by Ray Scarfe).



The Belgrave Tavern
56 Albert Road, Southsea

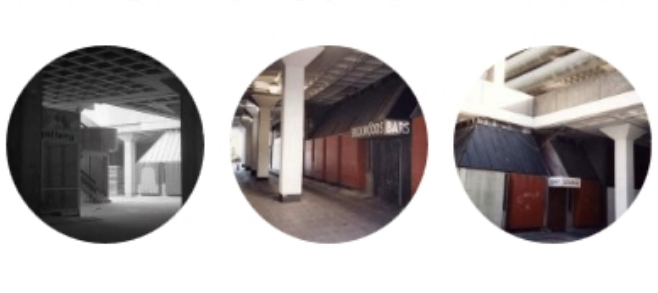
Situated on a street still synonymous with drinking establishments, the Belgrave Tavern stood on the corner of Duncan Road, one block east from the King's Theatre. This old Long's pub later transferred to the Brickwood's portfolio and survived until 1976, when it fell into dereliction and was sold off by its then-owner Whitbread. A new lease of life for the building came in 1979, when the premises reopened as a restaurant. It later became the Citrus Café Bar. By the autumn of 2014 it had reopened as the short-lived Al'Burrito Mexican bar and restaurant.

Colour photograph 15th July 2007.

The Bell
The Tricorn Centre, Charlotte Street, Landport

Constructed in the mid 1960s as part of Portsmouth's infamous Tricorn shopping centre, the Bell could be found hiding within the inner precincts of the rambling brutalist development. Owned by Brickwood's Brewery at its time of opening, the pub soon transferred to Whitbread following its purchase of the local company in 1971. The pub closed its doors long before the death knell was sounded for Tricorn itself.

Left-hand photograph reproduced with the kind permission of David Ayres.
Centre and right-hand photographs reproduced with kind permission of Peter Green.



The Bell Tavern
67 High Street, Old Portsmouth

This imposing old pub stood at the junction of High Street and Broad Street, Old Portsmouth and dated from the latter part of the 18th century. Known variously as the Bell, Little Bell and Old Bell Tavern during its life, the inn survived until the 1920s, when it was delicensed and converted to housing. No trace remains of the building in the 21st century.

The Beresford
70 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw

Starting life as the Dairyman's Arms in the 1800s, this small, late-Victorian pub appeared to defy the odds by continuing to trade into the 21st century whilst others in the area closed their doors.

Once part of the Portsmouth United Breweries estate (and seen sporting that company's tiling in these photographs), the Beresford regularly hosted local DJs and karaoke nights and was very typical of those to be found in Stamshaw, having altered little in decades. The final years of the pub's life were however turbulent, in as much that it rarely appeared to be open, with subsequent licensees being unable to make ends meet. The final death knell came in October 2010, when the city planners gave permission for the pub to be converted to four houses, with a fifth to be constructed to the rear. The resulting conversion has left the building with a hideous cladded façade, which it is hoped still conceals the original pub tiling beneath.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; 13th July 2008; 14th February 1988.

The Binsteed Arms
7/9 Binsteed Road, Buckland

The Binsteed Arms stood facing its neighbour, the Druids Arms, from the opposite corner of St Stephen's Road. Owned by the Miles Brewery toward the end of the 19th century, this little corner house retained the same name throughout its long history. Unfortunately, time was called on the pub in July of 1981 – a particularly bad year for Portsmouth pub goers, when national brewer Whitbread purged many 'underperforming' pubs within its estate and shut a number of houses across the city. This particular premises was converted to flats.

Left-hand photograph 15th July 2007.

Black Bar & Brasserie
11 Victoria Road South, Southsea

This modern bar and brasserie in Southsea's primary eating and drinking district emerged from the former Rickshaw's Restaurant and hosted live music on Friday and Saturday nights. The premises closed in November 2007 and now forms half of the Fat Fox pub.

Photographed 19th September 2oo4.

The Black Dog
301 Arundel Street, Fratton

The pub in the left-hand photograph was erected in 1965 as a replacement for the recently demolished pub of the same name which was located a few yards to the west, at 261/263 Arundel Street (see near right-hand photograph). The Black Dog was frequented almost exclusively by a local clientele from the nearby housing estates.

Since the far left-hand photograph was taken in 1990, the pub saw a number of different identity changes including Bailey's, Kennedy's and Grizzly's until eventually being closed and demolished in June 2002 to make way for a new apartment block.

Photographs, left to right: July 1990; June 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); August 1990 (by Ray Scarfe); unknown date.

The Black Horse Tavern
3 Tower Street, Old Portsmouth

Little is known about this historic former tavern that stood on Tower Street, facing Portsmouth Harbour. The date that now appears above the entrance to the building states that the tavern dates from c.1657. It is known to have continued trading until around 1896, at which time the licensee was a gentleman by the name of Samuel Goddard. The premises is now a private house.

Photographed 26th October 2011.

The Black Prince
Middle Street, Southsea

The Black Prince was a modern, multi-level pub built in 1968 to service the inhabitants of the Somerstown estate and was one of the few Eldridge Pope pubs in the city. After being sold in 1989 to South Coast Taverns it spent a time trading under the name of Churchill's before adopting its final identity of Jimmy'z. By this time the pub had turned its emphasis towards live music and strippers to pull in the punters. Closed in 1999 and demolished following an arson attack, there now stands a large university halls of residence (Trafalgar House) and convenience store on the site.

Photographs, left to right: 2nd July 1999; May 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); unknown date (by Ray Scarfe).

The Black Prince
68 Upper Arundel Street, Landport

This old beer house stood mid terrace on a street which has since changed beyond all recognition. A Brickwood's pub during Victorian times, the Black Prince later became part of Dorchester's Eldridge Pope Brewery estate – one of a small number in Portsmouth once owned by the former Dorset company. The pub survived into the 1960s when it was demolished to make way for redevelopment of the surrounding area.

The Black Swan
56 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

A pub by the name of the Black Swan existed at the foot of Broad Street for at least two hundred years. The tavern situated in the building photographed here served its last pints as long ago as 1896, when it was purchased by marine company Vosper. The premises is now a private residence.

Photographed 23rd February 2015.

The Blacksmiths Arms
66 Lennox Road North, Southsea

This Victorian tavern stood on Lennox Road North, at its junction with Chester Place. Owned by the local Peters Brewery for much of its life, the pub had become part of Surrey's Friary Meux estate by the time this photograph was taken in around 1970. The Blacksmiths was apparently popular with students and survived until 1974, at which time it was closed and demolished to make way for redevelopment of the Marmion Road area. The site is now occupied by the Waitrose supermarket car park.

Photograph (c.1970) kindly supplied by Clare Ash.

The Blue Anchor
21 Queen Street, Portsea

The building pictured in the photograph below was opened in 1962 to replace the previous pub that had been bombed out during the war (see also *The Western* elsewhere on this site). Constructed in typically austere '60s style, the pub was very much a local's local and not the most salubrious of establishments! The pub spent a large part of the early 1990s closed before reopening later in the decade and eventually being refurbished and renamed *Tradewinds* in 1999. However, the bar was unable to be turned around financially and in 2000 was closed. The pub was demolished in late 2006. There now stands a residential apartment block on the site.

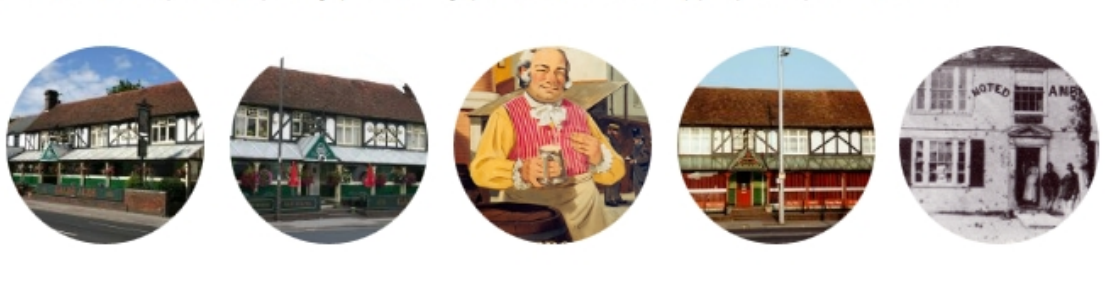
Colour photographs, left to right: 11th May 1989; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); unknown date (by Ray Scarfe).

The Brewers Arms
170 Milton Road, Milton

The Brewers Arms was at once one of three hostelries that faced each other across the road junction of Milton Road and Priory Crescent. This old Gale's pub (latterly owned by Fuller Smith & Turner) replaced an earlier pub of the same name which occupied the same site (see right-hand photograph below). Originally sporting an ornate green glazed brick frontage, this feature was unfortunately obscured from outside view when a single-storey extension was added to the building some decades ago.

The pub traded until late 2016, by which time trade had fallen off considerably – with most customers tending to visit the pub only when Portsmouth FC were playing home matches at nearby Fratton Park. The house was deemed surplus to requirements by Fuller's and became subject of a planning application in 2017 to demolish the site and replace the pub with flats.

Colour photographs (left to right): 13th July 2008; 15th July 2007; September 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 28th April 1991.



The Brewery Tap
Chapel Street, Buckland

The Brewery Tap once stood on Chapel Street and was owned by Young's of Thomas Street, Landport. The St Thomas Brewery was later renamed the Victory Brewery and was taken over by another local company, George Peters & Co, with Young's estate of around 63 pubs being transferred to Peters'. The Brewery Tap has long since been demolished.

The Brewhouse
139 Queen Street, Portsea

Located close to the Brickwood's Brewery on Queen Street, this pub outlived the former by quite a few years and was even renamed the Rising Sun (Brickwood's logo), presumably in recognition of its previous owner, following demolition of the brewery buildings to make way for a car park in the mid 1990s. The brewery site is now home to a number of large apartment blocks.

The pub eventually succumbed to the same fate, but not until the start of the 21st centuy. The site is now also occupied by residential and retail properties.

Photographs, left to right: April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989; date unknown (by Ray Scarfe); June 1983 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Bridge Tavern
224 Somers Road, Southsea

Named after the adjacent Turner's Bridge, which once spanned the Portsea and Arundel canal (later to become the trackbed between Fratton and Portsmouth & Southsea railway stations), the Bridge Tavern once served the inhabitants of the high density terraced housing that once covered this part of town. Surviving until 1983, this old Brickwood's house (latterly in the hands of Whitbread) was demolished to make way for road improvements. The run-down nature of the neighbourhood is evident in the photographs.

Left-hand photograph taken in 1980 (courtesy of Steve Payne).

The British Flag
1A Kassassin Street, Eastney

The British Flag on Kassassin Street, Eastney ceased trading around 1990 and was converted into private residences. This attractive little former Portsmouth United Breweries pub occupied an angular plot on the corner of Eastney Street, facing the Sir Loin of Beef. The house was later transferred to Whitbread's portfolio, where it remained until closure.

Colour photographs, left to right: 11th May 1989; July 1985 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Briton Tavern
34 Harley Street, Fratton

Occupying the corner of Harley Street and Wimpole Street, in an area which is now covered by inner city council flats, the Briton Tavern was built in 1862 as a beerhouse, to which the Britain Brewery was attached. The pub later became part of Brickwood's large pub estate, with beers supplied from its Queen Street brewery in Portsea. Externally decorated with the brewery's familiar glazed tiled fascia, it also sported two painted murals advertising the company's ales at first floor level. The pub traded into the 1920s and was eventually demolished.

The Bush Hotel
2 Elm Grove, Southsea

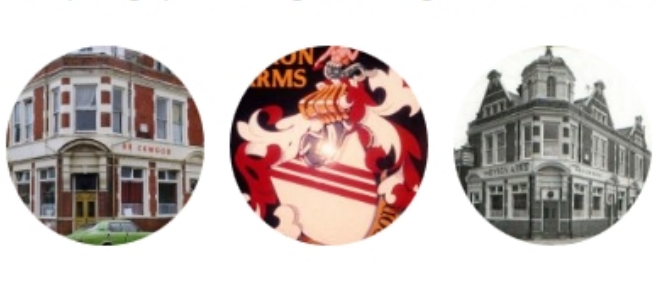
Occupying the corner of Elm Grove and Castle Road, the Bush Hotel was an imposing Victorian building, owned by the George Peters Brewery and dating from around 1891. In 1910 it came under ownership of Portsmouth United Breweries and lasted for a further thirty years, when it fell victim to German bombing during World War II.

The Byron Arms
214 Queens Road, Copnor

Constructed in 1900 to a design by architect A E Cogswell, the Byron Arms stood on the corner of Queens Road and Byron Road and had recently ceased trading when the left-hand photograph was taken in 1988.

As the picture shows, the Byron was a former Brickwood's house and later transferred to the Whitbread portfolio. It was converted to flats in 1989.

Colour photographs, left to right: 14th August 1988; June 1998 (by Ray Scarfe).



Next Page…

LOST PUBS – C

The Cabman's Rest
1 Plymouth Street, Southsea

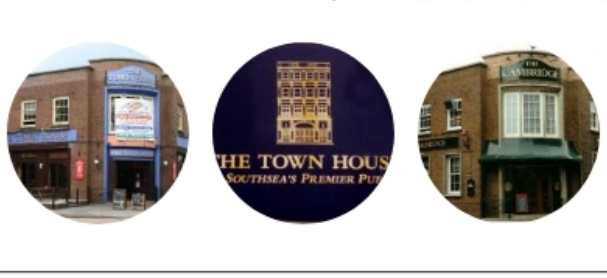
The Cabman's Rest stands isolated as a remnant of the terraced housing that once stood here prior to wartime bombing, post-war slum clearance and the subsequent building of the ill-conceived Somerstown estate. A true locals' pub, the present structure dates from 1922 and was designed by A E Cogswell for Brickwood's Brewery. Its glazed green brickwork is an attractive feature. Following a lengthy period of closure, the pub reopened under the charge of a new licensee in October 2009. Sadly, trading didn't last for long and within a year the house was once again closed. The property was later sold by then-owner Punch Taverns to a private individual and planning applications in 2015 and 2016 to convert the building to housing were thankfully refused by the city council. The building now stands empty, with an uncertain future.

Photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; 13th July 2008; 18th February 1990; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Cambridge (The Town House)
2 Portland Road, Southsea

Dating from 1953, the Cambridge Hotel occupied a large plot on the corner of Portland Road and Serpentine Road, Southsea. By the 1980s the hotel had ceased trading and the building became a large two-level pub, owned by Whitbread and popular with shoppers by day and clubbers in the evening. In 1995 a major refit saw the pub reopen as the Town House. This sadly marked the start of the hostelry's decline and by 2005 the building had been purchased by Ascott Leisure, an owner of bars in both the UK and abroad, but also a property developer, who's main aim was to demolish the pub and build apartments on the site.
A three year battle between Ascott Leisure, T Ware Developments and Portsmouth City Council ensued, concerning the redevelopment of the site (which stands in a conservation area) and specifically the proposal to build nine houses on the plot. A breakthrough seemingly came in May 2008, when permission was given by the council to demolish the structure after revised plans were submitted. For reasons unknown, the redevelopment failed to materialise and it wasn't until 2012 that the derelict site was eventually levelled. The site is now home to a large apartment block.

Photographs, left to right: 6th August 2005; June 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.



The Camden
1 Camden Buildings, Queen Street, Portsea

Originally the Hat In Hand and rebuilt in 1904 by A E Cogswell for the Pike Spicer brewery, the Camden stands on Queen Street at its junction with Havant Street and still sports its distinctive *brewers tudor* timbering at second floor level. The pub survived as such until 1976, when it was converted to a Royal Navy hostel. Sadly, this attractive building has stood empty for many years and has been allowed to deteriorate. In February 2017 a planning application was submitted to the city council to demolish the Camden and construct a seven storey Premier Inn hotel on the island site. The site was sadly cleared in December 2017.

Colour photograph 14th August 2005.

The Castle Bannerman
108 St Mary's Road, Fratton

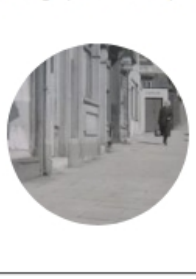
Still partially recognizable as a former public house to this day, the Castle Bannerman occupied the corner of St Mary's Road and Samuel Road, opposite the Battle of Minden. Originally the May Flower, the renamed pub traded from the mid 1920s up until 1976, when the property was sold to Portsmouth Housing Association and converted to residential use.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The Castle Brewery Inn
245/247 Somers Road, Southsea

Beginning life as the Sutlej Arms, this pub stood among a terrace of properties immediately south of Somers Road railway bridge, facing the Bridge Tavern. The photograph below shows the former pub on the left, second property from the camera, with the Lucknow Tavern clearly seen beyond the bridge. The Sutlej was renamed the Castle Brewery Inn during the 1890s and remained a pub until around 1928. The pub was owned by the Castle Brewery, located on nearby Mary Street and attached to the Castle Tavern, (which remains trading to this day). Brewing ceased in 1904 and the brewhouse survived until 1979.

Photographed 12th September 1946.

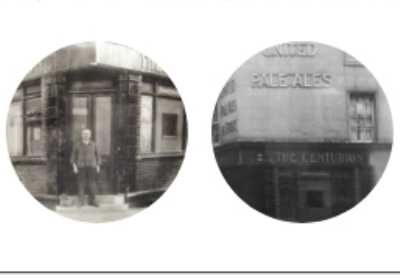


The Centaur Inn
66 Elm Road, Buckland

Once standing on the corner of Malins Road and Elm Road, the Centaur Inn was built in 1888 to a design by architect A H Bone (who was responsible for many of Portsmouth's grand pub designs). As seen in the photograph, the pub was part of the vast Brickwood's estate and featured a large sculpture of the mythical Centaur at first floor level. The terraced streets in this district of town were flattened in the 1960s and '70s to make way for what has since become the run-down Buckland council estate. The pub hung on until 1972 when sadly it was demolished along with the road on which it stood.

The Centurion
13 Cross Street, Portsea

Starting life as the Prince of Wales many years ago, this Lush Brewery pub stood at the junction of Cross Street and Prince George Street, close to the dockyard. One of dozens of pubs that traded in the immediate area, it was unsurprisingly popular with the Royal Navy and twice had its liquor licence objected to by the local constabulary, in 1915 and 1924. The house latterly become part of Portsmouth United Breweries' estate and was renamed the Centurion in 1923 – the same year that the pub became linked to the infamous unsolved murder of local prostitute Mary Pelham, who was found dead at a tenement slum in nearby Blossom Alley on 26th January. The pub survived until 1953.



The Charles Dickens
55 Church Street, Buckland

Originally the Blacksmith's Arms, this little Peters' Brewery pub stood on the corner of Church Street and Wingfield Street, in what is now the southern extremity of Buckland's council estate. The pub was renamed after the famous local author in 1896 and remained with Peters until 1934 – later becoming part of the Guildford-based Friary Meux Brewery's estate until they in turn were swallowed up by Ind Coope of Burton-upon-Trent in the 1960s. The pub served its last customers later in that decade and the building was demolished to make way for redevelopment.

The Charles Dickens
52 Thomas Street, Landport

The Charles Dickens was once one of at least eight pubs which, at one time or another, stood on Thomas Street. Occupying the corner of Martha Street, the pub spent Victorian times trading as the Old Countryman under ownership of Young & Co. and also spent a couple of years named the Brewery Tap. The premises eventually ended up in the hands of Ind Coope following a series of takeovers and mergers and the pub was demolished in 1988 to make way for redevelopment.

The right-hand photograph shows the pub's position to the right of the long-defunct Victory Brewery.

The Charles Dickens (Navy Arms)
15 Common Street, Landport

Surrounded by post war council flats to the east of Holbrook Road, where Landport meets Fratton, the Charles Dickens spent the large majority of its life trading as the Navy Arms (as depicted in the black & white photographs below).

It wasn't until 1988 that the pub was dedicated to Portsmouth's famous author, as shown in this charming inn sign to the left.

Owned by Allied Breweries at the time the right-hand colour photo was taken in 1990, the pub was put up for sale in 1994 and eventually reopened as Casey's Bar [owners John & Gail Casey] in 1996, which is how it remained until 2006 when the house was demolished – the subject of a compulsory purchase to make way for more flats.

Photographs, left to right: 2nd July 2005; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); July 1992 (by Ray Scarfe); 18th February 1990; unknown date; c.1934 (courtesy of Adrian Cook-Radmore); 1930s (courtesy of Adrian Cook-Radmore).

The Charlotte Street Cellars
20 Charlotte Street, Landport

Situated at the junction of Charlotte Street and Landport View, this corner house started life as part of the local Young's Brewery estate, as can be seen in the photograph below. In September of 1964 the pub was taken over by Guildford-based Friary Meux, who promptly closed the house. Within months it had been demolished along with much of the surrounding area, as clearance work started for the pending construction of the new Tricorn Centre.

The Cherry Tree
19 Queen Street, Portsea

One of a pair of pubs standing side by side at the junction of Queen Street and St James's Street, the Cherry Tree was owned by the Young's brewery of Portsmouth. The pub started life in 1887 as the London Stout House before being renamed in 1914. Sadly, the tavern lasted less than another twenty years and was closed way back in 1933. The building still stands, though it looks in need of renovation in the photograph below.

Photographed 14th August 2005.

The City Arms
10 Isambard Brunel Road, Landport

This rather unattractive detached building located on Isambard Brunel Road and adjacent to Guildhall Square was built in 1972 to replace the earlier Sussex Hotel. Its comparatively short history was a chequered one, and at times the pub suffered from attracting a shady clientele. The house was refurbished in 1994 and reopened as the Old Dog & Frigate, presumably to breathe new life into the pub and gain a better reputation. This guise was shortlived, and little more than a year later it became a pseudo-Irish bar (as was the trend at the time), trading as O'Hagan's. It finally regained its original name (albeit with *Arms* being replaced with *Bar*) in the late nineties, but this further change was still not enough to make the pub viable and trading ceased in 2006.

The premises once again became home to a bar when, in 2009, Drift In The City was opened by the owner of Southsea's Drift Bar (see the alphabetical pub listings for more information). This bar trding for roughly three years before also succumbing to financial pressure. The building now stands empty.

Photographs, left to right: 20th February 2011; 15th July 2007; May 1994 (by Ray Scarfe); 18th February 1990.

The Clacton Arms
Clacton Road, Paulgrove

This large post-war pub was one of five built on the Paulsgrove housing estate, to the north of the city, which have since been lost. Originally owned by the local Brickwood's brewery, the pub became part of the national Whitbread portfolio in the early 1970s. Sporting both a lounge and public bar, the Clacton became infamous for its troublesome clientele in later years. This came to a head in 1991 when the pub was destoyed by fire. Demolition soon followed and the site is now home to a terrace of houses.

Left-hand photograph courtesy of Ray Scarfe.

The Claremont Tavern
100 Commercial Road, Landport

Once trading as the Bird In Hand in the 1860s, this pub became the Claremont Tavern in 1874 and spent a time in the mid 20th century known as the Claremont Hotel. A Brickwood's house for much of its life, the pub was inherited by Whitbread following its takeover of the former company in 1971, sadly signalling its death knell. By September 1973 the pub had been demolished, prior to the widening of Station Street. The right-hand photograph shows the Claremont on the corner of Station Street, with the Criterion next door and the Station Hotel (Judd's) opposite.

Left-hand photograph taken in the 1960s ©Richard Baker.

The Clarendon Arms
33 Hampshire Terrace, Southsea

The Clarendon Arms dates from the mid 19th century and spent a short time in the 1880s known as the Clarendon Hotel. The building stands on the corner of Landport Street, opposite the Wig & Pen, which has also since closed for business. Owned by various local brewers throughout its history, including Holland's, Long's, Brickwood's and eventually Whitbread, the Clarendon closed its doors for the last time in 1981. The bracket for the inn sign is still in situ and now sports a sign depicting the building, with the wording Clarendon House below. The premises is now in a rather shabby condition and could well do with an external facelift by the present owners.

Colour photograph 15th July 2007.

The (New) Clarendon Tavern
80 Clarendon Road, Southsea

The Clarendon Tavern stood on this site since Victorian times, only once being subject to a full name change which came about in the 1990s, when it was known as Micawber's (due to the rumour of Charles Dickens having once lived on the site). The pub has had many owners including the Jewell Brewery, Brickwood's, Whitbread, Usher's of Trowbridge and finally, Punch Taverns. In its final years of trading the pub was rechristened the New Clarendon and by 2007 had also received a second name, Quigley's Bar, on the left-hand fascia board.

By October 2010 the house had served its last customers and the internal fittings were removed (in contravention of local planning laws). A year or so later and the building was converted to a convenience store.

Photographs, left to right: 15th July 2007; 30th September 2006; 19th September 2004; April 2002 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

The Coal Exchange
1 Bath Square, Old Portsmouth

see The Spice Island Inn (Current Pubs section)

The Coal Exchange
20 Sackville Street, Southsea

This Victorian tavern started life as the Corn Exchange and was set amidst the terraced houses that predominated in this part of Southsea. Originally owned by the local Hall & Co brewery, the pub changed its name to the Coal Exchange in about 1897 and was bought by Portsmouth United Breweries in 1934. Last orders were called in around 1956, when much of the immediate area was cleared for redevelopment.

The Coastguard Tavern
91 Clarendon Road, Southsea

This ugly 1962 building replaced an earlier pub of the same name that stood on the site since Victorian times.

The pub spent most of its modern day life under ownership of Allied Breweries (Ind Coope) before being sold off, initially to Inn Business, then to Punch Taverns in the late 1990s. After many years of neglect by its owners, the pub finally served its last pints in early October 2009. The premises is now home to an art gallery and studio.

Photographs (left to right): 13th July 2008; 30th September 2006; 11th May 1989.

The Cobourg Arms
39 Cobourg Street, Landport

Located on the street of the same name, close to its junction with Wimpole Street, this small Victorian tavern spent much of its life under the ownership of Blake's of Gosport – later being leased by that company to Brickwood's. The house stood in an area largely unrecognisable from how it is today, surviving until around 1967, when it was sold off and demolished to make way for the regeneration of the neighbourhood west of Fratton Road.

The Cobden Arms
66 Arundel Street, Landport

This pub was built as a toll house for the abandoned Arundel Canal and was sited on the corner of what was once Fratton Street and York Street. A former Pike's Brewery house, the pub included members of the Brickwood family as its licensees during the mid 19th century. Later owned by the brewery of the same name, the pub was closed by Whitbread and demolished in 1974 as part of the redevelopment of Arundel Street.

The Cock & Bottle
20 Queen Street, Portsea

Located next door to the Cherry Tree [see above] on Queen Street, the Cock & Bottle also originally started life in the 19th century as the London Stout House before metamorphosing from the Cock & Battle through the Cork & Bottle to the Cock & Bottle in 1887! Owned by the nearby Brickwood's brewery, the pub closed its doors way back in 1914, when the Great War was getting underway. Until recently the building was in a rather sorry state (see left) but has since been refurbished as a small apartment block.

Left-hand photograph 14th August 2005.

The Colliers Arms
Pipers Alley, North Quay, Old Portsmouth

This old beerhouse was owned by the Stannard brewery of Warblington Street and stood on the Camber Dock in the 1880s. As can be seen in this ancient photograph, the pub soon fell into dereliction and was demolished soon after.

The Connaught Arms
119 Guildford Road, Fratton

Constructed in 1891 as the Connaught Hotel, this pub was unusual in having retained the same name throughout its entire life. The pub spent its early years with Portsmouth United Breweries before transferring to Brickwoods in the mid 20th century. It was latterly bought by Whitbread before being sold on in the 1990s and was latterly owned by national pubco Enterprise Inns. A major refit in 1993 saw its three former bars knocked into one – as was the trend in the late 20th century.

In 1998 the pub was awarded Portsmouth CAMRA's *Pub of the Year* award, but in subsequent years the Connaught sadly fell on harder times following the departure of the previous licensees to run the Cormorant pub in nearby Portchester. The pub remained trading into early 2015 and was placed on the market as a going concern, but gained little attention from potential buyers wishing to breathe new life into the business.

The premises was sold on in the summer of 2015 for conversion to private residences on the upper storeys, with a convenience store on the ground floor. Work on the proposed shop has however, stalled due to planning refusals and objections by neighbours. A sorry end for what was once the centre of the local community.

Colour photographs (left to right): 13th July 2008; 14th August 2005; July 1990.

The Contented Pig (Landmark/Museum Gardens)
249 Fratton Road, Fratton

Originally the Shipwright's Arms and later the Museum Gardens (as seen in the right-hand photograph), this well-known pub on Fratton Road received a partial rebuild courtesy of pub architect A E Cogswell in 1932. In 1986 its name changed to the Frog & Frigate and it began serving its own ale – it being the sister pub to one of the same name on Canute Road, Southampton (which is rumoured to be reopening in 2015). By the late 1980s it had received a further name change and became the Landmark – retaining its basic interior with an emphasis on real ales and live music. Yet another change came in 1992 when the pub was rechristened the Contented Pig.

A further refurbishment in 2005 saw the heart ripped out of of the old pub when an ill-advised attempt, by an independent pub company, to reinvent the house as a modern wine bar style pub failed disastrously. This ultimately proved to be its downfall as the previous clientele turned their backs on the pub and the main reasons for coming here – the good choice of real ale and the quality live music – were both lost. The pub ceased trading in late 2007. A sad loss of a once-characterful pub. In early 2008, the site was rumoured to be the subject of redevelopment plans, though it wasn't until September of 2015 that the pub finally succumbed to the demolition men.

Colour photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005; October 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 18th February 1990.

The Coppersmiths Arms
141/143 Lake Road, Landport

Another of the many licensed premises that could once be found along the length of Lake Road, the Coppersmiths Arms was a Long's Brewery house situated on the corner of Church Street. The name derived from the former smithy that was once owned by licensee John Jago, who ran the pub from 1863 to '65. The pub became part of Brickwood's extensive estate when the Portsea Brewery took over the Southsea Brewery in the 1930s. The pub itself continued to trade until 1960, when it was demolished for redevelopment.

Photographed 3rd October 1946.

The Country House
342 Commercial Road, Landport

Located on Commercial Road, at its junction with Church Street, this large Victorian pub was owned by Blake's of Gosport and leased to Brickwood's Brewery. It later became part of the Brickwood's estate following the demise of Blake's and in 1971 was absorbed by Whitbread. The pub served its last beer in 1982 and was demolished in September of that year. The plot has long since been redeveloped and the road layout altered beyond recognition. Note the former ABC cinema on the opposite side of the Commercial Road in the photograph.

Cox's Hotel
26 Little Charlotte Street, Landport

Starting life as the Queen's Head (and Queen Charlotte's Head), this once-popular pub took its later name from former owners Cox & Fry. Trading as Cox's Hotel from 1928, the pub became part of Horndean brewer George Gale's estate, under which it remained until its closure and demolition at the start of the 1980s to make way for the new Cascades Shopping Centre. The Webmaster recalls the pub from childhood visits to Charlotte Street market. Sadly, it was one of a number of pubs in the immediate area that were lost to the developers at the time.

The Cricketers Tavern
Southsea Common, Southsea

Stood on what is now the junction of Osborne Road and Western Parade, this pub can be traced back to at least the late 18th century. Spending the majority of its life known as the Five Cricketers, this old Pike Spicer pub closed in the early 1880s, later being replaced by the Grosvenor Hotel. In 1903 Pike Spicer commissioned a rebuild of the house, to a design by Portsmouth's premier pub architect Arthur Cogswell. By the end of World War II the site was occupied by Barham Mansions, which still stands, having been converted to student accommodation for the University of Portsmouth.

The Criterion
102 Commercial Road, Landport

One of a large number of hostelries that could once be found on Commercial Road (which was once at least double the length of its existing route), the Criterion was built in the 1880s to replace another hostelry by the name of the Crimea. Originally owned by the Lush Brewery, and later transferring to Jewell's, the premises survived until as recently as 1973, when it was demolished in October of that year to make way for the widening of Station Street. The right-hand photograph shows the Criterion stood next to the Claremont Hotel, with the Railway Hotel on the opposite corner of Station Street.

The Crown (1)
244 Commercial Road, Landport

Another Commercial Road hostelry, the Crown occupied the corner of Paradise Street, opposite the Emperor Of India. Dating from the mid 19th century, the pub was originally owned by Messrs. Garrett and later passed to Brickwood's, as seen in this photograph. The house survived until 1962, when it was demolished for redevelopment of the city centre. A replacement pub, also named The Crown, was built opposite, on the corner of Charlotte Street, as seen in right-hand photograph (see also The Crown (2)).

The Crown (2)
203 Commercial Road, Landport

Built in 1961 to replace the pub by the same name which was due to close on the opposite corner, as seen in the centre photograph (see also The Crown (1), the tavern was sited at Commercial Road's junction with Charlotte Street, on a plot once occupied by the Monarch Tavern, which itself survived until 1940. Owned by Brickwood's, the pub survived just fifteen years before being converted to retail use. The premises remains a shop to this day, with few customers realising that they are shopping in a former public house.

Left-hand photograph kindly supplied by Rob Hall.

The Crown & Anchor
35 Bishop Street, Portsea

Located midway along the west side of Bishop Street, this narrow Portsmouth United Breweries' pub was one of four taverns that could at one time be found on this street. The pub managed to survive the extensive bombing of the area during World War II, but only lasted another dozen years or so, when it was demolished as part of slum clearance.

The Crystal Palace
1 Fawcett Road, Southsea

This imposing three storey pub and hotel once occupied the northern extremity of Fawcett Road, opposite Fratton Bridge, and was designed by prolific pub architect A E Cogswell. Completed in 1888, the pub would have sourced much of its custom from travellers and railwaymen due to its proximity to Fratton railway station. The pub replaced a tavern of the same name on the same plot and the later building survived until 1972 – its last pints being served on 28th August of that year. Demolition soon followed to allow road improvements

The Cumberland Tavern
130 Eastney Road, Eastney

The Cumberland Tavern was an imposing Brickwood's house, built in a pseudo-art deco style by famed Portsmouth pub architect A E Cogswell, dominating the corner of Eastney Road and Bransbury Road. Replacing a Blake's pub by the name of the Fort Cumberland Tavern, its last pints were served in January of 1989, when it was closed and was converted to apartments.

Left-hand photograph 11th May 1989.

The Curzon Howe
142 Queen Street, Portsea

The Curzon Howe stood mid-terrace on the north side of Queen Street, between Cross Street and North Street. This smart-looking Long's Brewery house was named after Admiral Sir Assheton Curzon-Howe (1850-1911) along with the nearby street of the same name, and was originally opened as a confectioners and refreshment rooms. It latterly became a licenced restaurant and by 1936 was listed as a public house. The pub traded until 1964 and was demolished in April the following year, as part of the Portsea regeneration plan.

The Cuthbert Arms
9 Cuthbert Road, Fratton

This small Victorian mid-terraced tavern stood amidst the tightly packed houses of Fratton's backstreets. Trading since the 19th century, the pub remained open until at least the mid 1930s. The building today displays no obvious signs that it was ever a pub and is now divided into two flats.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

Next Page…

LOST PUBS – D

The Dairymen's Arms
7 Candahar Place, Landport

This mid-terrace beerhouse took its name from the dairy that once stood behind the row of houses that occupied this street. Complete with Brickwood's familiar tiled frontage, the premises has long since vanished from the map. The area is now home to a dominance of council flats.

The Devonshire Arms
29 Devonshire Avenue, Southsea

Constructed in 1906 to a design by architect J J Cotton, the Devonshire Arms occupied a large corner plot in a residential district of east Southsea. Originally owned by Long's Brewery (as shown in the black & white photograph), the house passed into Brickwood's ownership in the 1930s and later to Whitbread. It was latterly owned by national pub company Punch Taverns prior to closure.

The pub's interior was knocked into one single bar room in the 1980s by then owners, Whitbread, giving the Devonshire the feel of a public bar. It tended to be frequented almost exclusively by regular customers from the surrounding streets, with visitors generally using the pub when darts matches were played.

A downturn in custom prompted Punch Taverns to put the pub on the open market and a buyer was found in the spring of 2012. Last orders were called for the final time on Friday 27th April. The house was converted to a convenience store, with the upper storeys becoming residential accommodation.

Colour photographs, left to right: 13th July 2008; 14th August 2005; 11th May 1989.

The Dew Drop Inn
9 Besant Road, Landport

This typical street-corner local stood at the junction of Besant Road and Highfield Street – a streetscape that has long since been consigned to history, with the construction of Holbrook Road in the latter part of the 20th century. Starting life as the Star in Victorian times, the pub was part of a small estate owned by the tiny Cosham Steam Brewery, which was taken over by United in the last years of the 19th century. By 1912 the pub had become known as the Dew Drop and was eventually transferred to Brickwood's portfolio following that company's acquisition of United in the 1950s. The house survived until the 1960s, when it was demolished as part of the regeneration of the local area.

The Dial Tavern
104 Crasswell Street, Landport

One of a trio of pubs lost from Crasswell Street in the late 20th century, the Dial Tavern was demolished in the mid 1990s. A victim of its environment, the pub found itself stuck in the centre of a run down inner city estate with high unemployment. The Webmaster recalls a conversation with the licensee shortly before its closure, who was resigned to the fact that it would soon cease trading due to a lack of custom. Part of the Friary Meux chain (Allied Brewers) at the time of this photograph, it was one of a number of pubs sold to Gales in the early 1990s.

Photographed 18th February 1990.

The Dog & Duck
115 Fratton Road, Fratton

Housed in one of Portsmouth's oldest buildings, the Dog & Duck was converted from two adjacent cottages dating from 1669 and 1703 respectively. Both still stand and were underwent refurbishment in the early 2000s, including the reinstatement of an inn sign at the front of the property. The pub traded from the early 18th century. Owned by the Pike brewery from 1750, the pub was in the hands of Brickwood's in its later life. The right-hand photograph shows the pub in the 1940s, when it sported a large and somewhat incongruous forward extension courtesy of Brickwood's.

Closure came in 1981 (at the hands of Whitbread) and the frontage was demolished in 1984 when the building was converted for National Westminster Bank, who occupied the site until 2002. By 2007 planning permission had been granted for a new bar and restaurant to be housed within the building. This sadly never came to fruition and the premises later became home to a day nursery.

Left-hand photograph 14th August 2005. Right-hand photograph 1934.

The Dorchester Arms
9 Marketway, Landport

The Dorchester Arms became one of the few pubs left standing in the Charlotte Street area following construction of the nearby Cascades centre in the late 1980s. The house was owned for many years by Dorchester's Eldridge Pope Brewery until the company ceased trading in the '80s and the pub was sold on.

Demolition of the Tricorn in 2004 and the subsequent application to redevelop the whole 'Northern Quarter' meant that the Dorchester's days were numbered. The pub closed in late 2005 and later became a low budget café premises.

Photographs, left to right: 15th July 2007; November 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 18th February 1990.

The Dorset Ale House
37 Cumberland Street, Portsea

Located close to the naval dockyard, near the junction of Unicorn Street, this pub was part of Dorset brewer Eldridge Pope's estate. The building can be seen on the far left of the photograph, with a Huntsman's Ales sign hanging from the frontage, behind the lamp post. As with many of the pubs in this part of town, its licence renewal was objected to by the Chief Contstable of Police in 1924, due to the excesses of drunkenness and prostitution that was rife in Portsea in the early 20th century. The pub continued trading until 1938, when the building became the subject of a compulsory purchase order and was demolished, along with much of the surrounding neighbourhood.

Drummond's (The Wiltshire Lamb)
1 Hampshire Terrace, Southsea

Originally the Wiltshire Lamb and latterly Hampshire Boulevard (HB), this pub became a popular venue for the gay community in the 1980s and continued in this guise until it reopened as part of Whitbread's Tut 'n' Shive chain in 1996. 1999 saw the pub trade for a brief spell as Monty's before reverting to its proper name of the Wiltshire Lamb. Sadly, this guise didn't last long and by 2003 the pub had adopted the name Hampshire Boulevard (since truncated to simply HB). The exterior still retains much glazed brickwork courtesy of Brickwood's Brewery, though the fascia has unfortunately since been covered up.

HB continues to trade as a late-night showbar, having been removed from the Current Pubs section of this website due to no longer operating public house hours.

Photographs, left to right: 20th March 2011; 19th September 2004; January 2004 (by Ray Scarfe); July 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); April 2002 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

The Duchess of Fife
86 Castle Road, Southsea

One of a number of former pubs still standing in the local area, the Duchess of Fife was originally, as seen in the photograph, part of the local Long's Brewery. Its green glazed brick and tile frontage has survived for sixty years since the pub ceased trading in the late 1950s, when it was owned by Brickwood's of Portsea. The premises was initially converted into a retail premises and is presently the offices of a design company.

Photographed 18th March 2007.

The Duke of Cornwall
247 Lake Road, Buckland

One of around twenty pubs that stood on Lake Road in the 1930s, the Duke of Cornwall started life in Victorian times as the Prince of Wales and was once run by the small Anderson Brewery, located off Commercial Road. The pub stood roughly where Turner Road now meets Lake Road, on what was once the corner of Westminster Place, one block away from the Swan (now Ladbroke's turf accountants). The house was renamed the Duke of Cornwall in 1902, probably on acquisition by Portsmouth United Breweries, who had the pub refronted to a design by architect A E Cogswell in 1909 (see photograph). Its date of demolition is uncertain.

Left-hand photograph kindly supplied by Richard Sheath.

The Duke of Edinburgh
80 North Street, Portsea

Dating from the mid 1800s, this old pub was originally given the rather odd name of the Excellents House Of Call before being dedicated to the Duke of Edinburgh in the 1870s. Its original address was 80 North Street, though alterations to the street plan over the decades now sees it listed as standing on Cumberland Street. The pub received a facelift by A E Cogswell at the end of the 19th century and was leased to Portsmouth United Breweries from the Lush Brewery before later becoming part of the Brickwood's portfolio. The house served its last customers as long ago as 1964 and in 1988 was reopened by HRH Prince Phillip following its conversion to private housing.

The right-hand photo shows the pub in the background, with at least two other former taverns also in shot.

Colour photograph 14th August 2005.

The Duke of Wellington
93 Russell Street, Landport

This attractive street corner tavern dated from early Victorian times and was also known as the Wellington Inn for a short time during the 1870s. Smartly decorated in Portsmouth United Breweries' livery, it was one of dozens of pubs lost as a consequence of enemy bombing during the Second World War. It was demolished following damaged caused to the structure in 1941.

The Duke of York
232 Commercial Road, Landport

Starting life as the Lord John Russell, this house was originally a pub and brewery owned by the Gardiner family. Purchased by Brickwood's in 1874, the pub adopted its latter name in around 1899. It continued trading until the mid 1950s, when the premises was demolished for local road improvement works.

Duke's
147 Albert Road, Southsea

Sadly only in existance for a short time, Duke's stood at the front of what is now the Wedgewood Rooms and consisted of a one roomed bar specializing in live Sunday lunchtime jazz sessions. Real ales were served and food was available during the day. The bar was sadly closed after a very short life and became the ticket office and cloakroom for the Wedgewood Rooms.

Photographed 28th April 1991.

The Duncan Cellars
35 Duncan Street, Landport

Located on the site of a Victorian beerhouse, the Duncan Cellars was rebuilt in around 1899 for J J Young's brewery. In 1934 the pub's ownership transferred to Friary Meux of Guildford, where it remained until its closure in the early 1950s, when Duncan Street was absorbed into the naval dockyard.

Next Page...

LOST PUBS – E

The Eagle
94/96 St George's Square, Portsea

Built on the site of the Blue Anchor in 1853, the Eagle stood on the corner of Butcher Street and St George's Square, Portsea and was the last of many pubs that once stood on the square. Originally part of the Pike brewery, the pub remained trading until the summer of 1982 when it served its last pints. The premises was converted to flats in 1988 and was given an external facelift in 2006.

Left-hand photograph 8th February 2007.

The East Cosham Tavern
48 Havant Road, Cosham

This former Brickwood's pub once stood directly in front of the newly constructed (early 1960s) Uncle Tom's Cabin, which itself was built to replace both the East Cosham Tavern as well as the original Uncle Tom's Cabin – a Gale's tavern that stood immediately to the west. The second to left-hand photograph looks east along Havant Road and clearly shows both original pubs. The colour photographs show the East Cosham Tavern undergoing demolition and in the right-hand image we see the new pub standing immediately behind.

Colour photographs ©Peter Barlow.

The Eastney Arms
42 Cromwell Road, Eastney

Another 19th century street corner local, the Eastney Arms was owned by the Miles Brewery and stood on the corner of Eastney Street. The pub closed its doors as long ago as 1918 and soonafter reopened as a shop. In 1975 it became a Chinese takeaway. Today the premises houses a convenience store.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The Eastney Cellars
56 Cromwell Road, Eastney

This small, street corner local traded as the Eastney Cellars as long ago as the 1880s. Once part of Portsmouth's Young's brewery, a century later it was in the hands of Friary Meux before being sold to Gales as part of a job lot in 1990. It was put on the market soon after and was refitted and renamed the Cellars At Eastney, becoming popular with the gay community.

This guise didn't last long and the premises changed hands once more, transforming the pub into Portsmouth's premier live music bar. The formerly run-down pub became a thriving, comfortable bar, featuring live acts most nights of the week. These often included well-known names from both the UK and abroad. Sadly, the Cellars At Eastney closed on 1st August 2015 following the expiry of its lease with Enterprise Inns. By the winter of 2016 the pub was in the process of being converted to private accommodation.

The right-hand photograph shows the pub's very rare Youngs Brewery window – Youngs of Portsmouth being the owner of the pub between the years 1878 and 1964. The fate of this window is unknown.

Colour photographs (left to right): 4th February 2007; 4th February 2007; 18th February 1990. Window photograph 9th November 2015.

The Egremont Arms
52 Crasswell Street, Landport

A former Portsmouth United Breweries pub, the Egremont was one of three surviving pubs on Crasswell Street until the late 1980s. The pub featured some attractive glazed tile work and the building has thankfully remained intact following conversion to private residences (see right-hand photo). Whilst it traded, the Webmaster recalls a rather sparten interior, with bare boards and upturned wooden casks for tables. The lack of windows also meant that it was a rather dark place in which to drink!

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005; 14th August 2005; 18th February 1990.

The Elephant & Castle
107 Sultan Road, Buckland

Located on Sultan Road in the centre of the inner city Buckland estate, the Elephant & Castle suffered not only from a poor reputation, but also from its less than glamorous appearence, being of typically cheap post-war design.The building shown in the colour photograph was constructed in 1959 to replace the original pub that was destroyed by a bomb on 27th April 1941 (see right-hand photograph). Originally a Pike's house, the pub had passed into the hands of Brickwood's by 1910 and was subsequently swallowed up by London brewer Whitbread. The latter building was demolished in 2001 to make way for more housing.

Photographs, left to right: October 1997 (by Ray Scarfe); 14th August 1988; c1920.

The Emperor of India
246 Commercial Road, Landport

Located on the site of the former London Stout House (later the Prince of Wales), this pub dominated the corner of Commercial Road and Paradise Street. Designed by architect W J Walmisley and built in 1904 for the Young's Brewery, the house enjoyed only a relatively short life, sadly being demolished in 1961 to make way for the bland architecture of the present Commercial Road.

The Empire Tavern
238 Somers Road North, Fratton

Originally the Builders Arms, this former Portsmouth United pub was located on the corner of Lucknow Street, where Holbrook Road now stands. Renamed the Empire Tavern in 1891, the house spent its latter years under ownership of Brickwood's until its closure and subsequent demolition in 1967.

The Esplanade Hotel
Clarence Esplanade, Southsea

Constructed in 1877, this imposing three storey building stood opposite Clarence Pier, on land now occupied by amusement arcades and a Premier Inn. Purchased by original owner Henry Cawte by Brickwood's in 1879, the hotel was also later listed as being under the ownership of King George V and leased back to the brewery. The building's life came to a premature end in 1940 when it was the victim of enemy bombing. The licence for the hotel was thereafter transferred to the replacement Esplanade Hotel on South Parade (see entry below).

The Esplanade Hotel
38-42 South Parade, Southsea

Opened in 1942 in an imposing building adjacent to the Savoy Ballroom, the Esplanade Hotel traded until 1976. The building will be best known to many readers as Fanshawes – a large pub popular with clubbers during the 1980s and '90s. By the late '90s the premises was trading as Frisco's and has since been known as the Tangerine Suite, White Room and Bar Bluu (sic).

The closure (and subsequent demolition) of the adjacent nightclubs housed in the Savoy Buildings left this part of Southsea rather devoid of any nightlife. As at May 2015 the building was undergoing substantial refurbishment, with the upper storeys already converted to apartments.

Photographs, left to right: 15th July 2007; May 1998 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Euphrates Arms
57 Fyning Street, Landport

This Victorian street corner local could be found at the junction of Fyning Street and St John's Road – the latter street having now been replaced by Holbrook Road. A Jewell's Brewery pub during the 19th century, the house later became the property of Brickwood's until its demise in 1962 for redevelopment.

Photographed 1946.

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – F

LOST PUBS – F

The Falcon
74 King's Road, Southsea

Once trading under the name of the Oyster Bar, this tavern was rebuilt in 1892 on a narrow plot on King's Road, Southsea. Originally owned by Garrett's, the new premises was under ownership of Portsea's Brickwoods Brewery, as is evident in the photograph. Much of this street was heavily bombed during World War II, resulting in the loss of most of its pubs. The Falcon was one to succumb to that fate.

The Fitzroy Arms
1 Fitzroy Street, Fratton

Sited on the corner of Fitzroy Street and Clifton Street, this pub was originally owned by the tiny Kemp Town Brewery before being acquired by United and latterly, Brickwood's. The house succumbed in 1967 to the demolition men, prior to the redevelopement of the surrounding area.

The Five Alls
97 Grigg Street (later 34 St Paul's Road), Southsea

Originally the Nine Elms Tavern under ownership of the nearby Long's Brewery, this old pub was renamed the Five Alls following its lease to Portsmouth United Breweries in the 1910s. The pub served its last pints as part of the Brickwood's estate, surviving until the late 1950s. The left-hand photograph depicts the pub's regulars on Christmas Day 1934. The site is now home to 1960s council flats.

The Florence Arms
2 Adelaide Street, Buckland

This Victorian street corner local was one of three pubs that once stood on Adelaide Street. Together with the Adelaide Arms and the Adelaide Cellars (both of which were history by the time this photograph was taken), the Florence Arms dated from around the 1870s. The house was originally owned by local brewers Mansbridge before becoming part of the Hall & Co estate shortly before the turn of the 20th century. The pub ended its life under ownership of the mighty Whitbread (who bought out Portsmouth's last major brewery, Brickwood's, in 1971). The exact date of the pub's closure, along with the demolition of Adelaide Street, is yet to be determined.

The Florence Nightingale
155 Hyde Park Road, Southsea

Once a beerhouse in the mid-Victorian era, the Florence Nightingale was originally a Jewell's pub located on what used to be East Street. The house was rebuilt by Brickwood's at the turn of the century, in a design reminiscent of much of that company's estate, with the familiar combination of glazed brickwork, mosaic tiled facia and 'brewers tudor' half timbering to the upper storey. Standing at the junction of Hyde Park Road and Telegraph Street, the pub later became part of the vast Whitbread portfolio, surviving until around 1967, when the building was demolished to make way for the redevelopment of the Somerstown area.

The Flying Squadron
173 Lake Road, Landport

Home to a large number of pubs, with only one surviving into the 21st century, Lake Road was home to the Flying Squadron – recorded as trading from around 1881 until the pub lost its beer licence in 1928. Originally owned by the Mew Brewery, the tavern transferred to Pike Spicer in 1911. Some readers may be puzzled by the name of the pub – 1881 being long before the invention of the aircraft. The Flying Squadron in this case refers to the Detatched Squadrons of the Royal Navy – unarmed ships that were formed to undertake worldwide cruises for training and promotional purposes.

The Fortitude Tavern
53 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

Dating from around 1786, the Fortitude Tavern was one of many inns and taverns that could once be found in the immediate vicinity. Once a location synonymous for its drunkedness, prostitution and contraband, Old Portsmouth has long since become a respectable neighbourhood full of affluent residents. The old pub closed way back in 1923, though keen-eyed observers will notice the HMS Fortitude mural on the building's frontage at second floor level.

Photographs, left to right: 3rd February 2009; 29th April 2008.

The Fox
1 Gunner Street, Buckland

Located opposite the Kingfisher, on the corner of Timpson Road, the Fox was once owned by George Palmer's St Paul's Brewery of Southsea, which was subsequently bought out by larger rival Long's. The pub later ended up in the hands of Portsea's Brickwood's Brewery, with whom it is likely to have remained until closure. The Gunner Street area was swept away in the early 1970s and along with its neighbour, the Kingfisher, the Fox was demolished in the name of 'progress'.

Photograph kindly supplied by Richard Sheath.

The Fratton Hotel
1-3 Fratton Road, Fratton

Located on the site of the Queen's Head, this large, imposing building stood on the corner of Fratton Road and Sydenham Terrace, immediately north of Fratton Bridge, close to the railway station. Constructed in 1899 and designed by Victorian architect Vernon Inkpen, the Fratton Hotel was initially owned by the Peters Brewery and was later transferred to Portsmouth United Breweries in 1910. It remained a hotel and public house until the 1920s, when its liquor license was surrendered and the premises operated thereafter as a restaurant. The building became a war casualty in 1941 when it suffered serious bomb damage and its remains were demolished.

The Freemasons & Military Arms
1-2 Lennox Row, Portsea

Located in a part of Portsmouth that was once home to literally dozens of public houses – but which now has none – the Freemasons & Military was known to have traded as the Three Pigeons in Georgian times, before becoming the Military Arms in the mid 19th century. At that time, owned by the Spicer brewery, it was later acquired by another local firm, Pike's. By 1874 the Freemason's name had began to appear on documents relating to the premises – this most likely being a result of two adjacent pubs being combined to form a single, larger premises. The full Freemasons & Military Arms title was noted to be in use in 1887. By 1900 the pub appears to have been converted to a shop and lodging house.

The photo below shows the pub in the 1940s. The empty plot to the right was once home to another tavern, the Asia – and one can clearly see the former Duke of Edinburgh (see elsewhere on these pages) prominent on the corner of Cumberland Street. The building at the far end of the road is yet another pub – the Brickwood's owned Keys, located on the corner of Unicorn Street.

The Frog On The Front
Clarence Esplanade, Southsea

This small bar was opened in 1993 as part of the Pyramids leisure complex on Southsea sea front and drew most of its patronage from young drinkers on weekend evenings, as well as catering for daytime visitors during the warm summer weather.

Aesthetically ugly, the building was briefly converted to a showbar in the late summer of 2008. It has since been absorbed into the Pyramids centre.

Photographs, left to right: 3rd January 2005; April 1999 (x2) (by Ray Scarfe).

Next Page...

LOST PUBS – G

The Gem
31 Commercial Road, Landport

Located on what is now Lord Montgomery Way, in the centre of Portsmouth's university quarter, the Gem was one of three pubs that stood in an east-facing terrace, on the boundary of Southsea. Once the property of the small Cosham Steam Brewery, the pub was enlarged in 1904 for then-owners United. The house was taken over by Brickwood's in 1953 and survived until 1969, when it was demolished for redevelopment works.

The George & Dragon
27 High Street, Cosham

The George & Dragon was a Brickwood's pub that stood on the east side of Cosham High Street, at its junction with Market Road – in an area which has now been fully pedestrianised. Few of the original buildings remain here now, as is evident in the left-hand photograph, which looks south along the length of the High Street, with the George & Dragon just visible to the left. It is believed that the pub served its final pints sometime in the late '70s. A modern block of retail units now stands where the George & Dragon once was, covering what was Market Road's junction with High Street.

The George Hotel
29/30 High Street, Old Portsmouth

This famous, imposing old hotel was used by many top-level naval commanders over the centuries. Indeed, it was at the George that Vice Admiral, Lord Nelson spent his final night ashore before setting sail to engage in the Battle of Trafalgar in September 1805. The building in the photograph replaced a much smaller thatched inn and the premises also once traded as the Waggon & Lamb until the early 18th century. The George was the terminus for the famed *Rocket* stagecoach that operated between Portsmouth and London.

The proud history of the George came to an abrupt end in 1941 when the hotel suffered bomb damage caused by German aircraft. The premises was subsequently demolished, never to be rebuilt.

The Gladstone Head
101 Staunton Street, Landport

This long-gone pub stood among the terraces of Landport, on a site which is now a small park area in the shadow of the council high-rise Barkis House, on Brownlow Close. A Portsmouth United Breweries tavern, the pub appears to have served its last pints in around 1928.

The Golden Bell
60 Charlotte Street, Landport

Typical of many street corner locals that could once be found in Portsmouth's city centre, the Golden Bell stood at the junction of Charlotte Street and Amelia Street. A Portsmouth United Breweries house at the time of this photograph, the pub was, during the late 19th century, owned by Brown's Brewery and Hall & Company. The Golden Bell survived as late as 1976, after which it was demolished to make way for redevelopment. The right-hand photograph shows the road junction during the 1950s, with bombsite evidence in the background. The pub can be glimpsed on the right side.

Left-hand photograph kindly supplied by J Taylor.

The Golden Cross
8 St James's Street, Portsea

Located at the junction of Beck Street and St James's Street, this tiny street corner beerhouse was once owned by the local Young's Brewery before being purchased by the much larger Long's Brewery of Southsea in the late 19th century. The pub appears to have ceased trading in around 1914.

The Golden Fleece
37-41 Commercial Road, Landport

Externally similar to the Trafalgar on Fratton Road, this old pub once stood at a location where Commercial Road has since ceased to exist (roughly where the junction of Lord Montgomery Way and Winston Churchill Avenue now meet). Built in 1867 for the Simmonds Brewery, the house later became part of the United Breweries' estate before ending up in the hands of Brickwood's. Sporting both these companies' names in the photograph below, the pub survived until October 1972, when it was demolished for large scale redevelopment.

The Golden Lion
2 (formerly 4 & 1) Lombard Street, Old Portsmouth

One of at least four pubs to have once stood on Lombard Street (or Golden Lion Lane as it was once known), this pub can be traced back as existing since at least the early 18th century. Part of the Pike Brewery estate by 1845, the house traded until the beginning of the 20th century. By 1911 it had become a private property, which it remains to this day. Keen observers can these days spot the golden lion statue above the entrance to what is now number six Lombard Street.

The Golden Sceptre
7 Ordnance Row, Portsea

Originally named the Golden Fleece, a pub on this site can be traced back as far as the late 18th century. The house was rebuilt in 1902 for Biden's Brewery and renamed the Golden Sceptre. By 1918 ownership had transferred to Portsmouth United Breweries and subsequently passed to Brickwood's following their takeover of PUB in 1953. The pub survived until 1967 after which the property was demolished.

The Granada
1 Granada Road, Southsea

Still standing into the 21st century, this old pub and hotel is now home to a lap dancing venue. Whatever would its former patrons have made of what goes on within its walls nowadays?! Starting life as the Granada Arms in the mid 1800s, the pub was later renamed the Granada Hotel.

In 1891 it received a ground floor extension courtesy of the Brickwood's Brewery (see photo third from left) and was rebuilt in 1937 to a design by A E Cogswell for the same owners. The pub survived in this guise until 1985, when it was closed by Whitbread and sold. It has since traded as various nightclubs and late-night venues, including, for a number of years, Harry Lime's Show Bar – the sign of which appears in the left-hand photograph.

Inn sign photograph April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Grantham Arms
5 Somers Road, Southsea

Another typical 1960s estate pub, the Grantham Arms started life as the Somerstown Tavern until it underwent a refit and change of name in 1989. It suffered from a poor reputation owing to its run down inner-city location and was eventually closed in 2002. The premises served for a short time as the home of the Packhorse Brewery until it was wound up in 2003. The building still stands, complete with signage, and is now used as a storage facility for Portsmouth City Council.

Photographs, left to right: 22nd July 2007; 28th April 1991; 1984 (by Rod Briggs).

The Grave Diggers
97 Highland Road, Eastney

Beginning life as the Victoria Arms in the late 19th century, this pub was originally owned by the Young's Brewery of Portsmouth. In 1960 it was renamed the Grave Diggers in recognition of the men who toiled in Highland Cemetery which stands opposite the pub. After a brief spell in the 1980s as the Diggers (see black and white photograph to the right), the pub reverted to its proper name later in the same decade.

The pub retained two separate bars right up until its final closure in March of 2012. Prior to this date, the house spent a few years opening and closing sporadically until owner Punch Taverns finally made the decision to sell off the historic Grade II listed property to a private purchaser for conversion to a house.

Photographs, left to right: 31st May 2011; 13th July 2008; 4th February 2007; September 1992 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

The Great Western
59 Commercial Road, Landport

Located on a part of Commercial Road that has long since disappeared, the Great Western was built in 1902 to a design by Cogswell for Portsmouth United Breweries and had further alterations carried out four years later. The interior was notable for having the longest bar counter of any pub in Portsmouth. The pub eventually became part of Brickwood's portfolio and lasted until 1972, at which time it was demolished to make way for redevelopment work.

The Guardsman
129 Fratton Road, Fratton

Certainly one of Portsmouth's oldest buildings and definitely (until recently) its oldest pub, the Guardsman stood on Fratton Road, just south of its junction with Arundel Street. It was reputedly the only timber framed building in the city and was apparently haunted by a lady, a small boy and a cat. Once part of the Brickwood's estate, the pub became a Free House in the 1980s, stocking Marstons beers. Around the turn of the century the Guardsman spent a short time as a private members' club and by January 2007 it stood closed and boarded.

A planning application by the owner to convert the Grade II listed premises into two private dwellings was initially thrown out by the city council. However, a revised application was given approval soon after. By mid 2007 the building stood in a poor state state of repair (as seen in the bottom left-hand photograph) and by November of that year contractors had moved in and removed the historic roof of the pub, as shown to the right. It has since been faithfully reconstructed to modern standards.

Colour photographs: 3rd November 2007 (by Rob Hall); 22nd July 2007; July 1990.

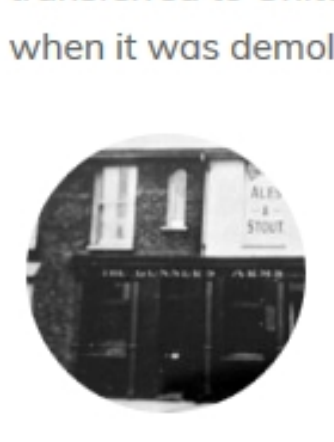
The Guildford Arms
22 Guildford Road, Fratton

Now yet another anonymous house conversion, the former Guildford Arms started life in the 19th century as an off-licence, occupying the corner of Guildford Road and Forton Road, Fratton. The pub was a Brickwood's house, continuing to trade until 1971, when new owner Whitbread sold the building for conversion to a private house.

Photographed 29th July 2007 (by Rob Hall).

The Gunner's Arms
56 Gunner Street, Landport

The Gunner's was located at the junction of Gunner Street and Terwick Street – two roads that have since been completely erased from the Portsmouth street plan. The pub's location would have corresponded roughly to where Lake Road Health Centre now stands, close to Nutfield Place. In the 19th century the Gunner's was part of a small tied estate belonging to the Elm Brewery of Eldon Street, Southsea, owned by John Miles. Elm Brewery was amalgamated with Portsmouth United Breweries in 1896 and the pub was transferred to United until that company's subsequent takeover by Brickwood's. The pub survived until 1971, when it was demolished for the redevelopment of the Lake Road area.



Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – H

LOST PUBS – H

The Harlequin
57 Fyning Street, Landport

This small tavern started life as the Napier Arms and occupied the junction of Fyning Street and Northam Street, in the area north of Arundel Street. The pub was rebuilt for Horndean brewer George Gale & Co. in 1901 to a modest design by A E Cogswell and named the Harlequin. The house survived until 1968, when it was flattened to allow for redevelopment of the neighbourhood. An abundance of blandly-designed council flats now cover the area.

The Harlequin
Portsdown Park, Cosham

Certainly one of Portsmouth's most notorious public houses, owing to its location amidst the concrete jungle that was Portsdown Park, this small Gale's house could be found in an elevated position at the entrance to this infamous council estate. Finding the way in could well be a challenge for a first time visitor, but then again, once inside you'd probably have wished you'd not bothered! The Webmaster has vauge recollections of spending a couple of lunchbreaks in the Harlequin, downing large, cheap whiskies before returning to work at Queen Alexandra Hospital opposite! The end for the Harlequin came in 1987 when the entire estate was flattened to make way for an altogether better private housing estate.

The Havelock Tavern
114 Crasswell Street, Landport

The Havelock is one of three Crasswell Street taverns to be found in the Lost Pubs section of this website and was the first to close. As the right-hand photograph shows, it had already served its last pints when this picture was taken in February 1990. Part of a small estate of Eldridge Pope pubs in town, it too suffered from being in a deprived area with few people having the resources to spend money in a pub. It was soon converted into flats, as shown in the left-hand image.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005; 18th February 1990.

The Hawke Street Tap
35 Hawke Street, Portsea

Stood on the west side of Hawke Street, close to its junction with College Street, this pub was known to be serving customers as far back as the 1770s. Under ownership of the Lush Brewery in the 1880s, the house was purchased by United in 1918 and ended up in the hands of Brickwood's in 1953 following their acquisition of the former company. The pub became the subject of a compulsory purchase order in 1968 and was demolished in 1971 prior to the redevelopment of the immediate area. The right-hand photograph shows the pub and its neighbouring properties empty and in a poor state of repair prior to their demise.

The Hearts of Oak
483 Commercial Road, Rudmore

This striking former Brickwood's pub once stood towards the northern end of what was once Commercial Road (now Mile End Road). The original end-of-terrace property was architecturally unasuming until given a trademark elaborate facelift by Arthur Cogswell in 1897. This resulted in a riot of glazed brickwork, mosaic tiling and stained glass, as seen in the photograph. Sadly, time was called on the pub in 1974 and demolition followed, ready for the complete redevelopment of the road system in the vicinity. Thankfully, some of the internal fittings were saved and can now been found on the first floor of the Portsmouth Museum. Additionally, much of the ornate frontage has also been saved and is presently in storage (at the museum depot in Hilsea), hopefully to be exhibited to the public one day. Compare this lovely building to the monstrous Estella Road flats that now loom over the area from the opposite side of the road. The 1970s was a sad time for the architectural heritage of Portsmouth.

Click here to view a colour photo of the Hearts of Oak, taken May 1970 (© Getty Images).

Help The Lame Dog Over The Stile
Grigg Street, Southsea

Certainly one of the most curiously-named pubs that has ever existed in Portsmouth, this old tavern had shortened its name to simply *The Lame Dog* by 1927. Originally a Long's Brewery pub, it later ended up as part of the Brickwood's estate. By 1934 it appears to have become a shop. The building was demolished, presumably as a consequence of the redevelopment of the St Paul's Road area in the 1960s (Grigg Street having ceased to exist by that time).

The Highland Arms
Highland Road, Eastney

Starting life as the Highland Tavern in 1865, the former Highland Arms still dominates the corner of Highland Road and Eastney Road. By 1900 it had changed its name to the Highland Arms and the building underwent extensive alterations early in the 20th century (the date of 1915 still being clearly visable on the left side of the building, with the second photo to the left showing also showing the name of the pub's original owner, Biden & Co). Closed in 1984, the house was converted into flats and now sports an ugly third storey extension and lift housing.

Left-hand photograph 30th September 2006.

The Highland House
108 Highland Road, Eastney

One of a number of pubs located on Highland Road (only three of which remain trading in 2015), the Highland House stood on the opposite corner to the Three Marines – itself still serving pints to the local population. A small Victorian tavern, it was owned by the Mew Langton Brewery until the 1930s and the pub remained in business until at least 1960. By 1980 the premises had become a hostel by the name of Highland Lodge and remains so to this day. The bar room and counter are still in situ.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The Hogshead
29-33 Guildhall Walk, Landport

This short-lived ale house opened its doors in the early 1990s, owned by then-national pub company and brewer Whitbread. The large bare-boarded interior, with basic furnishings and upturned ale hogsheads proved initially popular with real ale drinkers – students and older customers could regularly be found rubbing shoulders at the bar. A wide range of eight or nine cask ales, mostly from the Whitbread stable, was available. Sadly, after a few years, Whitbread appeared to grow tired of the Hogshead brand and the poorer performing pubs in the chain were sold off, including this particular house. The premises soon after became a late-night student venue by the name of Bar Me (see left-hand photograph), later morphing into the Terrace Bar (2010-2011, as seen on the right). These days it trades as an evening cocktail bar by the name of The Lyberry.

Photographs (left to right) 15th July 2007; 20th March 2011.

The Horndean House
213 Lake Road, Landport

On of many pubs once to be found along the length of busy Lake Road, the Horndean House was a Victorian corner pub, stood at the junction of Lake Road and Turner Road. In 1923 the pub's name was changed from the Dolphin to its latter name by owners Gale's – reflecting the fact that the brewery was located in Horndean village, nine miles to the north. The pub continued to trade into the 1960s when it was demolished for the redevelopment and realignment of Lake Road. The left-hand photograph shows the pub on the far left of the image, whilst the right-hand photo depicts the premises on the far right side.

Left-hand photograph 12th October 1946.

The Horse & Jockey
28 Marlborough Row, Portsea

The Horse & Jockey started life as the Hare & Hounds, acquiring its latter name licensee Rebecca Diddams took over the pub in 1851 after moving here from the Horse & Jockey on nearby Sandwich Street, which had recently been demolished to make way for an extension to the dockyard. Once owned by Pike's Brewery, the pub spent most of its life with Portsea's Brickwood's. The house closed in around 1942 and the site now stands within the present H M Naval Base. The pub's licence was transferred to the White Lodge on Southsea Terrace – now better known as the White Horse.

The Horseshoe
1/3 King's Road, Southsea

Standing in a prominent position at King's Road Junction, the Horseshoe was constructed in 1957 to replace the Horseshoe Hotel. The house spent a brief period in the late 1980s trading as Shoes (see right-hand photograph) before reverting to its original name.

In latter years it became one of the few pubs in the city regularly featuring live bands. Planning permission was given for redevelopment in 2004. The left-hand photograph shows the premises closed and boarded in September of that year. Demolition soon followed. The plot is now home to Horseshoe Apartments.

Photographs, left to right: 19th September 2004; March 1999 (x2) (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – I

LOST PUBS – I

Ice Bar
9-11 Highland Road, Southsea

Ice Bar finally opened on 11th December 2016 after many years of delays. This street corner bar was an independently-run business, situated at the eastern end of Southsea's prime drinking and dining district. Aimed at a varied clientele, from students to local residents, the premises consisted of two rooms – one housing the bar counter and a second, larger area on a raised deck which was home to the main seating area.

The pub struggled to survive from the outset – probably due to the business not quite knowing who its target customer base was – as well as having the appearance of a bar that had obviously been opened on a limited budget and was run by staff who appeared to lack a suitable degree of business acumen. The pub served its last customers just eight months after opening its doors.

Photographed 12th December 2016

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – J

LOST PUBS – J

The Jersey Arms
70 Jersey Road, Buckland

Located diagonally opposite the still-thriving Winchester Arms, at the junction of Langley Road and Jersey Road, the Jersey Arms was a small Brickwood's owned pub that ceased trading many decades ago. By 1918 the premises was listed as being an off-licence owned by a Mr George Saunders. It is now a residential property.

Photographed 19th July 2007 (by Rob Hall).

The Jubilee Tavern
15 Jubilee Terrace, Southsea

The Grade II listed Jubilee Tavern traded under this name for over 150 years and occupied a prominent corner building, dating from 1809. Originally part of the Lush Brewery, the house passed to Portsmouth United Breweries and subsequently Brickwood's before being taken over by Whitbread in 1971. The pub consisted of a single bar area and had a varied clientele, most of whom were drawn from the immediate locality.

Close to Southsea Common and within easy walking distance of Clarence Pier and Old Portsmouth, the pub somehow never manged to capitalise on its prime location and by early 2007 was opening only occasionally. By November of that year it was rumoured to have been purchased for conversion to offices – however, the premises later reopened as an Italian restaurant, which remains trading to this day.

Photographs, left to right: 27th January 2008; 30th September 2006; 11th May 1989.

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – K

LOST PUBS – K

The Keys
77 Unicorn Street, Portsea

see **Freemasons & Military Arms**

The Kimberley
99 Somers Road, Southsea

Located on Somers Road, one block south from the Traveller's Rest, the original pub on this site started life as the Morning Star in around 1886 and survived until 1906, by which time it had been renamed. The Kimberley was rebuilt in familiar *brewers tudor* style by Brickwood's and finally closed its doors in 1982, at a time when Portsmouth was losing many of its local pubs. The building spent a brief spell as a tea room before being converted to a hostel.

Far left-hand photograph: 14th August 2005. Second left-hand photograph 1980 (courtesy of Steve Payne).

The King & Queen
9 The Hard, Portsea

This 18th century ale tavern stood side-by-side with four other public houses in an area once famous for its high concentration of licensed premises. The pub was once owned by Blake's Brewery of Gosport and leased to nearby Brickwood's until that company took over the former in 1926. The house was rebuilt in 1924 to a design by A E Cogswell and continued trading until 1987. The owner at that time, Whitbread, then had the pub knocked through to the adjacent Ship Anson, to form one large bar. From that time the King & Queen name ceased to be.

The King & Queen
High Street, Cosham

Photographed in the days when Cosham High Street retained its Victorian character, the King & Queen was a Long's Brewery house standing mid-terrace amongst the town's many shops. The pub also once housed a small brewery to the rear, though this was unlikely to be operational in this picture, dating from the early 20th century.

Left-hand photograph kindly supplied by J Taylor.

The King George V
83/85 Cottage View (formerly 1 Bishop Street), Landport

Located at the corner of Cottage View and Railway View in Landport, this pub was closed in the 1980s and converted to residential use. Fortunately the premises still sports its original tiling, with the pub's name clearly prominent at first floor level – the tiled fascia was thankfully revealed once again during a restoration of the building's exterior in the early 2000s, as seen in the left-hand photograph.

Colour photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; 18th February 1990.
1940s photograph kindly supplied by Neil Deville.

The Kingfisher
2/4 Gunner Street, Buckland

Originally known as the Carpenters Arms, this small street corner local occupied a plot at the junction of Gunner Street and Timpson Street. The whole area has since been completely redeveloped, with Gunner Street being erased from the map and only a short section of Timpson Street surviving into the 21st century. Once part of the Jewell Brewery estate, the pub passed to Brickwood's in around 1934 and was renamed the Kingfisher. Toward the end of its life it was run by Dorchester's Eldridge Pope Brewery and served its last pints in 1970, being demolished in December of that year to allow for the aforementioned redevelopment to go ahead.

Photograph kindly supplied by Richard Sheath.

The Kings Head
44 Marmion Road, Southsea

This small terraced pub on one of Southsea's main shopping streets was originally run by Portsmouth United Breweries and acquired in 1953 by Brickwood's following the takeover of the former. The pub survived until around 1971, after which demolition followed. The pub's footprint now lays beneath the Waitrose supermarket site.

The Kingston Tavern
62 Kingston Road, Buckland

This mid-terraced, late-Victorian tavern was built in 1898 to replace a previous pub known as the Brewery Tap. Designed by A E Cogswell, the pub traded continuously as the Kingston Tavern from 1900 until its eventual demise.

Throughout its life it was owned by a succession of local breweries, including the Bransbury brewery at the turn of the 20th century and Portsmouth's large United brewery throughout the war years. Brickwood's takeover of United saw the pub come into new ownership during the 1950s until London-based Whitbread entered Portsmouth in 1971 to buy out and eventually close Brickwood's.

Surprisingly, the Kingston managed to survive for longer than many of its less fortunate neighbours. Whitbread embarked on a ruthless spate of pub closures across the city throughout the late 1970s and early 80s, yet the Kingston avoided a similar fate. Indeed, the pub was given a pleasant makeover in the early 1990s, which despite the loss of the original island bar counter, left the pub with a smart, single-roomed interior.

However, the Kingston still struggled to attract the right clientele and after a spate of temporary closures it shut up shop for the final time in 1999 following the death of a customer due to negligence by the licensee. It was converted to apartments at the turn of the century, being given the baffling name Jade Mews.

Colour photographs, left to right: mid-1990s; 14th August 1988; November 1998 (kindly supplied by Ray Scarfe); unknown date.

The Kipling
10 Addison Road, Southsea

Now one of many anonymous residential properties across the city that once housed a licensed premises, the former Kipling could be found at 10 Addison Road, on the corner of Grenville Road. The premises spent much of its life as an off-licence and grocery store, though it would appear that it spent a brief time as a public house, owned by Brickwood's, prior to its demise in around 1934.

Photographed 21st July 2007 (courtesy Rob Hall).

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – L

LOST PUBS – L

The Lads Of The Village
113 Somers Road, Southsea

Part of Gosport's Blake's Brewery at the time that this photograph was taken, the Lads of the Village had become part of the extensive Brickwood's estate by the mid 1930s. Occupying a prominent corner spot at the junction of Somers Road and Lower Forbury Road, Somerstown, the house can be added to a long list of other pubs in the area that were demolished long ago.

Photograph kindly supplied by Michael Smith.

The Landmark
249 Fratton Road, Fratton

see The Contented Pig

The Lion Brewery Tap
13 London Road, North End

This familiar *brewers tudor* fronted building in North End's busy shopping district was once home to the Lion Brewery Tap, who's beers were brewed in the buildings to the rear (which also still stand) on Pitcroft Lane. The brewery ended up in the hands of Brickwood's in 1910 following a series of takeovers and mergers and by 1970 had been converted to a factory. The pub itself has also long since been converted to retail use – notably the award-winning Churchill's fish and chip shop, as depicted in this photograph.

Photographed 24th July 2007 (courtesy Rob Hall).

The Lennox Arms
92 Commercial Road, Landport

Constructed in 1888 to replace a pub of the same name, the Lennox Arms was owned by Chichester's Henty Brewery (later Henty & Constable) and was one of a number of inns and taverns that stood in the same city centre terrace, outside Portsmouth & Southsea station (the awning of Judds Railway Hotel can clearly be seen behind the Lennox, at No.98). By the time the photograph was taken the pub was in the hands of Guildford company Friary Meux and was facing imminent closure together with its neighbours, Judds and the Bristol Arms. Demolition followed later the same year (1973) to allow for the widening of Station Street and the opening up of the frontage to the railway station.

Photographed early 1973 by Geoff Marsh.

The London Tavern
8 The Hard, Portsea

Located mid-terrace among a number of other hostelries, the London Tavern was a Long's pub that later passed into Brickwood's hands following that company's acquisition of the former. Latterly known as the Old London, the pub was a victim of a bombing raid in 1940 and never rebuilt. Its narrow plot is now home to the Ship Anson's patio garden.

The Lone Yachtsman (Union Tavern)
65 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

see The Spice Island Inn (Current Pubs section)

The Lord Clive
1/3 Brookfield Road, Fratton

Built in 1898 on the corner of Brookfield Road and Guildford Road in Fratton's densely populated terraced streets, the Lord Clive was owned by Portsea brewer Brickwood's and latterly Whitbread. The pub remained trading until 1986 when planning premission was granted to convert the premises to flats. Note that the bracket for the inn sign remains in situ in the left-hand photograph, taken two decades after the pub's closure.

Colour photograph 14th August 2005.

The Lord Hood
20 Rutland Street, Southsea

Stood on the corner of Rutland Street and Gloucester Street in a neighbourhood that has changed in all recognition since World War II, the Lord Hood was Brickwood's pub that traded until around 1940, after which it appears to have disappeared from the records. A possible casualty of the blitz? The post war Somerstown estate now occupies the site of these now-lost streets. The photograph below dates from 1921.

The Lord Nelson
469 Commercial Road, Rudmore

Another pub to once occupy an area that has long since disappeared beneath the tarmac of what is now Mile End Road, the Lord Nelson was a medium-sized, detached Victorian local that was given a trademark glazed brick and mosaic tiled exterior by owner Brickwood's. The house was once run by the Bransbury Brewery before passing into ownership of the Portsea brewer later in the 19th century. By the time the pub closed for the last time in 1973 it was in the hands of national brewer Whitbread.

The Lord Roberts
7 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw

Starting life as the curiously-named New Found Out, the Lord Roberts adopted its latter name in around 1910. Stood on the corner of Silverlock Street, close to where the Rudmore flyover now stands, the pub was owned by the Young's Brewery of Portsmouth from Victorian times until 1934. It then spent a short time as part of the Peters Brewery estate before being swallowed up by Guildford's Friary Meux in 1959. By 1964 the pub was in the hands of Burton giant Ind Coope. The pub survived as late as 1970, when major redevelopment of the area saw its closure and subsequent demolition.

Thanks go to Pam Conway for the left-hand and centre images shown below (with additional acknowledgment to Rob Hall).

The Lucknow Tavern
259 Somers Road North, Landport

Located immediately north of the railway bridge, on the corner of Canal Walk, this pub and hotel was originally owned by the Pike Brewery, although the photograph below shows glimpses of Long's Brewery livery at both parapet level and on the pub's fascia. Records show that the site was bombed in 1941, though the photo, dating from 1946, shows the building very much intact – possibly the result of a rebuild. In 1949 the pub was documented as being converted to the headquarters for the Portsmouth Scouts.

Photographed 12th September 1946.

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – M

LOST PUBS – M

The Magpie
66-70 Fratton Road, Fratton

Built in 1901 to replace a previous pub of the same name (formally the Brickmaker's Arms) the Magpie was a typical traditional Portsmouth local. Once part of the Friary Meux pub chain, it received a major refurbishment in 1989, though began to fall into decline by the turn of the century. The pub spent a number of years during the '90s under the ownership of Gibbs Mew before being sold to Punch Taverns.

The Magpie received another refurbishment in 2007 in an effort to increase its trade and make the pub more welcoming. However, by the end of the year it had closed its doors and in June 2008 a planning application was submitted to convert the pub into nine apartments.

Photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; March 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 19th February 1990.

The Market House Tavern
472 Mile End Road (formerly 472 Commercial Road), Mile End

This Grade II listed building stands on a busy dual-carriageway and retained its name for well over 150 years. Originally part of the Pike Spicer Brewery's estate, the pub later transferred to Brickwood's and was latterly run by private operators Pubfolio. Now isolated and dwarfed by the horrendous blocks of flats that overlook Mile End Road, the pub stood on a street corner until the early 1970s, on what was once Commercial Road (see bottom right-hand photograph).

Under its new ownership the Market House Tavern enjoyed a brief renaissance in the 1990s after previously being allowed to become rundown and neglected by former owner Whitbread. Bed & breakfast accommodation was available, though this was very basic and often afforded poor reviews from customers on internet websites. The single bar room was a mix of traditional seating and leather armchairs. A pool table could be found to the rear. Despite another refurbishment in the spring of 2007, the interior was somewhat lacking in intimacy and could well have done with additional decoration to make the place feel more homely. Its former interior was far more pleasant that the latter one.

The pub became the subject of many planning applications throughout the years leading up to its closure – one of which was to convert the building into a veterinary surgery. A large hotel was also mooted for the site. These all failed, almost certainly due to the pub's listed status. By early 2013 the pub had closed, with its fascia signage having been removed. It was later refurbished and reopened as a twelve roomed hotel by the name of ~~Ferry House Lodge~~.

Colour photographs, left to right: 6th August 2005 (x2); March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 14th August 1988.

The Marmion Tavern
27 Marmion Road, Southsea

Not to be confused with the present Marmion Tavern, which is located a short distance to the west, this former pub stands on the corner of Marmion Road and Wilton Place. In 1887 the house changed its name to the Marmion Hotel and closed for business as long ago the 1937 when its licence was transferred to another pub. The premises became a drapery store in the 1940s and reopened as a record shop in 1971. Today it houses Roux jewellers.

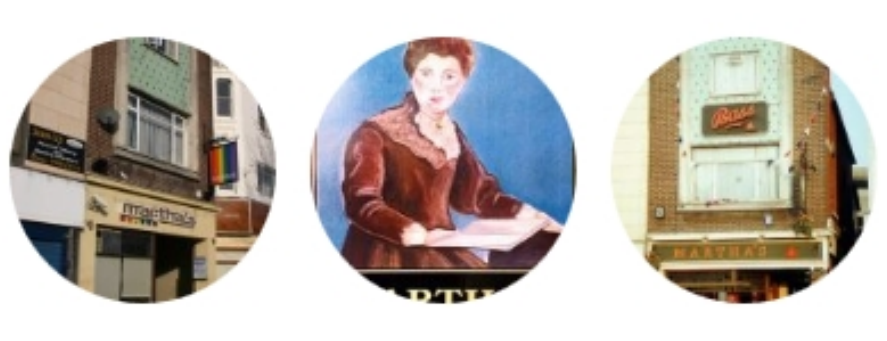
Photographed 15th July 2007.

Martha's
227 Commercial Road, Landport

Trading as the Suffolk Arms until 1948, this pub acquired its unusual name in tribute to former licensee Martha Kingsbury (d. 1914). The pub had a chequered history and once housed a brothel during the 1930s. Major building works last took place in 1957 and many interior refurbishments followed. Until the late 1980s the pub was popular with the Royal Navy, but Martha's since became known primarily as one of Portsmouth's most popular gay bars. Discos were held at weekends and the venue was often busy. However, the premises gained a somewhat dubious reputation in its latter years, and with the announcement of major city centre redevelopment work planned to take place in the early 21st century, the pub's days were numbered.

The aforementioned redevelopment was later put on hold due to the poor economic climate, but the end of the line came for Martha's in June 2011, when the pub closed permanantly. As of February 2017 the building still stands, albeit in rather poor condition.

Photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; unknown date (by Ray Scarfe); 28th April 1991.



The Mayflower
295/297 Highland Road, Eastney

The Mayflower retained its identity since Victorian times and was designed in a cottage style by renowned architect T E Owen, who was responsible for the layout of much of Southsea's ornate regency terraces. The pub consisted of a large public bar and a smaller lounge and it spent some time during the 1990s in a guise similar to a Hogshead Ale House (branded as a Beer Engine pub on the inn sign). Owned by both Long's and Brickwood's breweries over the years, it later ended up part of the Whitbread portfolio.

Sadly, in 2007 the Mayflower was purchased by property company Velder Developments who swiftly closed the pub in November of that year and submitted a planning application to build nine town houses on the site.

This was swiftly denied by the city planners. However, whilst the results of a planning appeal were awaited, demolition of the property began on April 14th 2008 – a shocking act of vandalism which should showed blatent disregard for architectural heritage and contravened accepted practices.

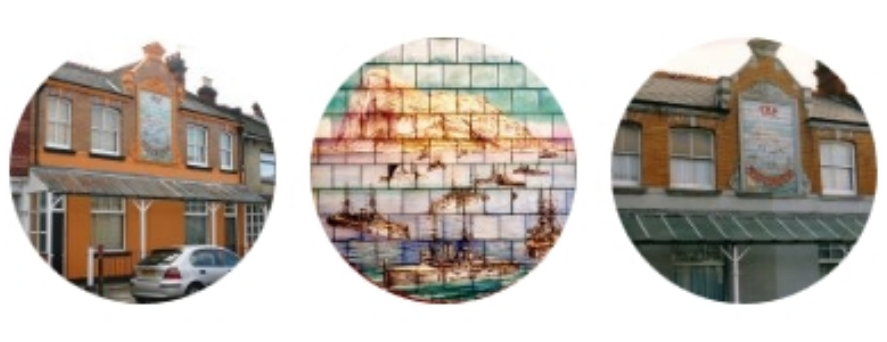
The left-hand photograph depicts the pub as it was being boarded up in late November 2007. Six months later the building was in a very sorry state, as seen in the second image, taken days before its controversial demolition.

Photographs, left to right: 24th November 2007 (by Rob Hall); 11th April 2008 (by Rob Hall); 30th September 2006; 11th May 1989; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Mediterranean
68 Stamshaw Road, Stamshaw

Constructed in 1904 to a design by A E Cogswell, the Mediterranean replaced a pub by the name of the Wheelwrights Arms, located on the same site. Originally a Portsmouth United Breweries house, it was acquired by Brickwood's in 1934 and subsequently became part of Whitbread's vast empire in 1971. The pub survived until 1978 when it was closed and converted to housing. Thankfully the ornate mural at first floor level still survives, along with the pub's iron and glass canopy. An external restoration in 2006 helped to brighten up the somewhat jaded façade.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 14th August 1988.



The Middleton
13 Bedford Street, Southsea

Stood at the corner of Bedford Street and Middle Street, the Middleton (previously the Victoria and Princess Victoria) was originally part of the Pike Brewery's estate and by 1934 was in the hands of Brickwood's. The Middleton was the subject of a compulsory purchase order in 1961 as part of the city's huge slum clearance programme that resulted in the construction of the Somerstown council estate later that decade. Demolition followed in 1965, when the pub was replaced by another – the Raven, which is still thankfully trading to this day. The right-hand photograph depicts the pub prior to its demise, with the redevelopment of Somerstown underway.

The Mighty Fine
106 Commercial Road, Landport

See The Albany

The Mile End Cellars
317 Commercial Road, Mile End

Yet another old tavern which could be found in the Mile End district of Commercial Road. The Mile End Cellars spent much of its life under ownership of George Gale & Co. The house survived until as recently as 1977, at which time routine renovation found the premises to be structurally unsound. Demolition followed and another pub, the Oliver Twist, was built as a replacement, this time under ownership of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries.

Mr Pickwick
142 Milton Road, Milton

This Victorian pub saw much change throughout its lifetime. Originally a Long's Brewery pub known as the Cremorne Gardens (and variations of), this name remained evident behind the fascia until the pub's closure. It became the Mr Pickwick during the 1970s, then spent two years as Duke's between 1986 and 1988 – a pub frequented by a young clientele. The Mr Pickwick name returned after a refurbishment in 1989 and remained until the pub's demise. The exterior of the pub concealed some ornate tiling that once decorated the front elevation. Some of this could also be seen inside the main entrance well into the 21st century. The interior was very large, with a ground floor extension to the south elevation. Much of the original plasterwork and ceiling roses remained, but sadly all the wall decoration was painted over rather unsympathetically in latter years. Two ornately-carved original fireplaces could be found at either end of the house, plus a third, brick-built example, in the extension. The pub's popularity dropped off in its final years of trading – with most turnover coming from football supporters when Portsmouth FC were playing at nearby Fratton Park. The Pickwick served ins last pints in October 2017, with the site earmarked for redevelopment.

Colour photographs, left to right: 3rd January 2005; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 1970s.

The Mitre
28 Butcher Street, Portsea

Standing in a prominent position on the corner of Kent Street, the former Mitre traded as such since at least the late 18th century. The pub closed as long ago as 1935, at which time its licence was transferred across town to the Baffins Inn on Tangier Road. The premises has since been used as a restaurant and a hairdressing salon and in early 1980 planning permission was granted to convert the ground floor back into a public house. Sadly this never came to fruition and the building has since been converted into apartments and named Josie Court.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

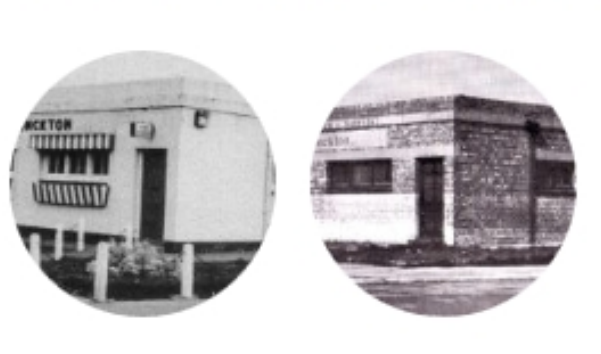
Moncks (Monk's)
54 High Street, Old Portsmouth

Housed in an historic Grade II listed building opposite St Thomas's Anglican cathedral, this comfortable pub cum wine bar traded for many years and was popular with visitors and locals alike. The interior was given an expensive and very pleasing refurbishment in the first decade of the 21st century but sadly began to lose trade due to global recession. The business was given a makeover in 2014 and was relaunched as a tapas bar by the name of El Nico, which sadly saw many of the internal fittings and furnishings of Monk's days removed, though the premises remained a well-appointed, smart and comfortable environment, with fine attention to detail. Two first floor rooms could be hired for private functions. Sadly the business folded within two years and the premises is currently mothballed.

Photographs, left to right: 6th June 2010; 6th June 2010; 30th September 2006; 11th May 1989; 23rd April 2015.

The Monckton
318 Copnor Road, Copnor

Of all the hundreds of public houses that have stood on Portsmouth's streets over the centuries, this must surely have been the most eccentric! Built on a shoestring budget in 1942, on the corner of Monckton Road, at a time when World War II was at its midpoint, the Monckton resembled a brutally designed pillbox structure with limited glazing and a flat roof. The pub survived until the summer of 1982, when it was sadly demolished to make way for housing. The Webmaster held a childhood fascination for this building and regrets not having ever had the opportunity to venture inside.



The Morning Star
27 Greetham Street, Southsea

One of many pubs that could be found directly south of the railway corridor between Portsmouth Town and Fratton stations, this sizeable cornerhouse stood at the junction of Greetham Street and Blackfriars Road (and due to street renumbering in the 19th century variously had the addresses 78, 82 and 132 Blackfriars Road!) Once tied to Southsea's Long's Brewery, it later became part of the Brickwood portfolio following that company's takeover of the former in 1934. The pub survived until the late 1960s, at which time much of this neighbourhood was flattened prior to construction of the Somerstown housing estate.

Photograph ©Barry Cox

The Museum Gardens
249 Fratton Road, Fratton

see The Contented Pig

The Mystery
1/3 Warwick Crescent, Southsea

Similar in appearence to the former Seagull on Broad Street, Old Portsmouth, this striking little pub stood amidst the forest of tower blocks in Southsea's rundown Somerstown neighbourhood. Built in *brewers tudor* style with Cogswell's familiar witch's hat tower, it eventually succumbed to the inevitable, a victim of the local arsonists who were presumably unable to appreciate the only beautiful building on their doorstep. Demolition followed – a terrible waste of what was certainly one of Portsmouth's most interesting structures.

The right-hand photograph shows the pub in a virtual wasteland, following the slum clearances prior to the redevelopment of Somerstown, and the architectural eyesores that followed.

Left-hand photograph 18th February 1990. Right-hand photograph kindly supplied by J Taylor.

Next Page...

LOST PUBS – N

The Navigators
38/40 Isambard Brunel Road, Landport

Built in 1976 as part of the new Isambard Brunel Road scheme, the *Navigators* existed mainly to serve local workers from the civic centre offices – evening trade being somewhat light. The explosion in licensed premises along nearby Guildhall Walk in the 1990s affected the pub badly and contributed to its closure in 1998. The house was converted to offices in 2001, with demolition of the site taking place over the winter of 2016/17 to make way for more university halls of residence.

Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Navy Tavern
1 Half Moon Street, Portsea

Dating from the late 18th century, the Navy Tavern stood immediately outside the dockyard's Main Gate (now Victory Gate), on an island plot at the junction of The Hard. The pub also briefly acquired the names the Army & Navy Tavern and the Marquis of Lorne at various stages of its life, though it was as the Navy Tavern that it was best known. Once part of the small Bransbury Brewery estate, the house also spent time under the ownership of Brickwood's and Long's (as seen in the photograph). The pub traded until around 1940, when it may have become the victim of a German air raid. The plot of land on which the premises once stood was never redeveloped.

The Nelson Hotel
101A Victoria Road South, Southsea

The Nelson Hotel was built in 1898 at the junction of Victoria Road South and St Vincent Road. Prior to this date, pubs with the names the Nelson's Arms and the Nelson Inn stood on the site. The house remained trading until late 1981, at which time it was closed and converted to flats, as so many of the city's pubs have been over the last thirty years or so. Luckily, the building still survives and is easily recognizable as a former pub to this day.

Colour photograph 4th August 2005.

The New House
135/137 Fratton Road, Fratton

A bakery and grocery shop in Victorian times, this premises is later recorded as becoming a brewhouse in 1880, though it would appear that a bakery continued to operate here for at least another decade. The property stood next door to another pub, the Guardsman (also now closed) and was under the ownership of Blakes of Gosport by 1891, being leased to Portsea's Brickwood Brewery until at least the mid-1930s. The New House continued to trade as a beer retailer until 1958 – thereafter being converted to alternative retail use. Today it houses a hairdressing salon.

Photographed 29th November 2015.

The New Inn
164 Havant Road, Drayton

This three-storey 19th century inn on the main road from Cosham to Farlington was a traditional local, frequented by patrons of all ages from the local community. Sadly, by the turn of the 21st century, the pub began to stuggle financially and owner Punch Taverns found difficulty in securing a long-term tenant. In the spring of 2010 the pub was purchased by local businessman Abdul Ahad and was eventually reopened as an Indian restaurant.

Photographs, left to right: 11th March 2007; May 2001 (by Ray Scarfe); unknown date.

The New Railway Inn
79 Copnor Road, Copnor

Constructed around the turn of the 20th Century, the New Railway Inn occupied a plot on the west side of Copnor Road, roughly opposite its junction with Stapleton Road. Named after the railway line that passed nearby, the pub was once owned by the Long's Brewery and subsequently Brickwood's before being taken over by Whitbread in 1971. Closure came in 1980 and demolition followed in July of that year. The plot is now occupied by a small terrace of houses.

Photograph kindly supplied by Paul Emery.

The New Road Inn
17 New Road, Buckland

A typical street corner local, the New Road Inn could be found at the junction with Balliol Road. Part of the Long's Brewery estate in the 19th century, the pub later came under ownership of Brickwood's and thereafter Whitbread, when the latter took control of the Portsea brewer in 1971. The house survived a further decade before becoming another victim of Whitbread's ruthless pub closure programme in 1981. The property is now an anonymous pair of flats.

Left-hand photograph 15th July 2007.

The New Roebuck
76 New Road, Buckland

Constructed in 1887 to a design by architect C W Ball, this Victorian corner house was once owned the Pike Spicer Brewery before later becoming part of the vast Brickwood's estate during the 1930s. Unusual for not being designed with two or more bar rooms, the *New Roebuck* featured a single U-shaped drinking area, with a long bar counter stretching down the centre of the pub.

Diminishing trade in the early 21st century saw the pub begin to struggle and opening hours had become somewhat sporadic by 2010. A planning application was submitted in the latter part of that year to convert the pub into flats. By May 2011, consent had been given and work was soon underway, leaving New Road with just two remaining pubs. The building now houses a convenience store on the ground floor, with private accommodation on the upper storeys.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005; 13th July 2008; 14th August 1988.

The Nine Elms Tavern
81 Commercial Road (now 8 Guildhall Walk), Landport.

This small Victorian terraced pub has stood on what was once Commercial Road for around 150 years. With its name carved in stone at roof level, the pub was originally part of the Lush Brewery before passing to Portsmouth United Breweries in the early 20th century. The pub survived until the early 1970s before falling into dereliction and subsequently being converted to a restaurant. In the mid 1980s the building formed part of the new Ellie Jay's 'fun pub' and remained in this guise until the late 1990s when it once again closed. It later reopened as part of the countrywide Po Na Na chain of nightclubs. By 2007 the premises was trading as a stripper house and nowadays forms part of the Fuzzy (previously Fuzzy Duck) late-night club bar (see photographs).

Colour photograph 18th March 2007.

The Nine Elms Tavern
97 Grigg Street, Southsea

Located on what later became St Paul's Road, where Portsmouth and Southsea merge, The Nine Elms was a three storey, narrow Victorian beerhouse which, in 1911 was leased to Portsmouth United Breweries by the Long's Brewery. The following decade the pub was renamed the Five Alls and ended up as part of the Brickwood's portfolio. The pub survived until 1958 when it was closed and demolished.

The Northsea Arms
94 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw

Standing mid-terrace among the dense housing of Stamshaw, the former Northsea Arms now shows little evidence of its previous life as a public house, as can be seen in the left-hand photograph. Once owned by Brickwood's, the house ceased trading in 1981 (a poor year for pub closures across the city) and then-owner Whitbread sought planning permission to have the premises converted to housing.

Left-hand photograph 15th July 2007. Right-hand photograph kindly supplied by A Jarvis.

Next Page...

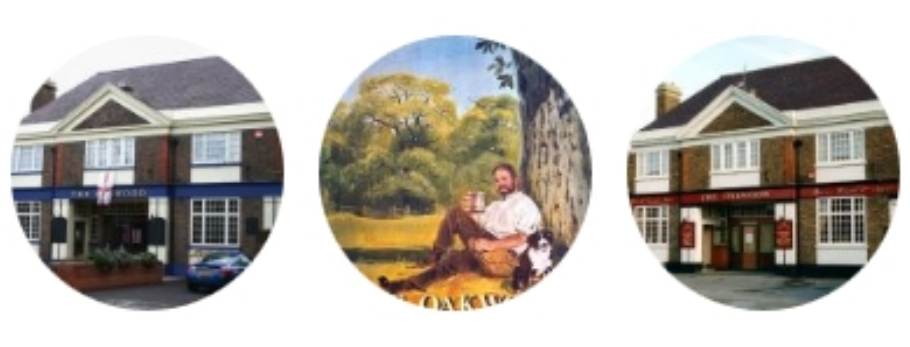
Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – O

LOST PUBS – O

The Oakwood
190 Northern Parade, Hilsea

This pre-war pub opened its doors in 1936 to service the inhabitants of the Hilsea residential district. Owned for many years by Whitbread, the Oakwood ended its days in the hands of national pubco Punch Taverns. The original two bars were later knocked into one and the pub gained new licencees in February 2007. Sadly, the pub was seemingly deemed unprofitable by Punch and in mid 2009 was acquired by the Co-Operative Society. August 2009 saw the Oakwood being stripped out prior to its conversion to a convenience store, leaving the immediate neighbourhood devoid of any public houses.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; June 1999 (by Ray Scarfe) 11th February 1990.



The Old Beehive
6 Wiltshire Street, Southsea

A Victorian street corner local with typically ornate Brickwood's livery, the Old Beehive stood at Wiltshire Street's junction with Landsdowne Street, on a site now occupied by a private residence. Owned in the late 19th century by the Winchester Brewery, the pub survived until 1928 – the last licensee being Arthur Cooper, who's name appears above the door in the photograph below.

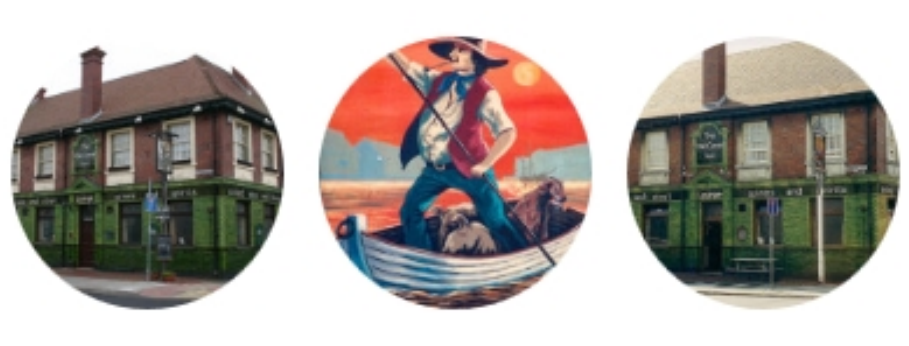
The Old Blue Posts
38 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

The original Blue Posts was constructed in 1613 and became one of Portsmouth's most famous old inns. The name apparently derived from the two large pillars that supported the porch at the front of the house. The pub was at various times known as the Blue Posts Inn, Tavern and Hotel as well as the Two Blue Posts for a short spell during the 18th century. The end for the original structure came in 1870 when it was destroyed by fire. The pub was rebuilt, as seen in these photographs, and survived until 1940, when World War II brought about its demise.

The Old Canal Inn
2 Shirley Avenue, Milton

Dating from 1930, this imposing pre-war building stands in a residential district of Milton. The ground floor is clad with attractive green glazed brickwork and it wears the livery of original owner Portsmouth United Breweries. Named after the abandoned Portsmouth and Arundel canal that ran close by, the pub also sported a number of rare United etched windows. These were unceremoniously removed following the closure of the pub in 2013 during its conversion to a convenience store. A sad loss for the architectural heritage of Portsmouth and, of course, as a local amenity for the residents of Milton.

Colour photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); July 1990.



The Old Free House
6 Wickham Street, Portsea

The Old Free House once stood where the present day Invincible can now be found. Dating from Victorian times, the pub is shown as belonging to the Rice Brewery in 1880. By the time this photograph was taken in the late 1950s, the signage displayed that of the Mew Langton Brewery. The premises was demolished some time soon after, with the aforementioned Invincible being built on the plot (see elsewhere on this website).

Left-hand photograph kindly supplied by J Taylor.

The Old George
16 Kingston Road, Buckland

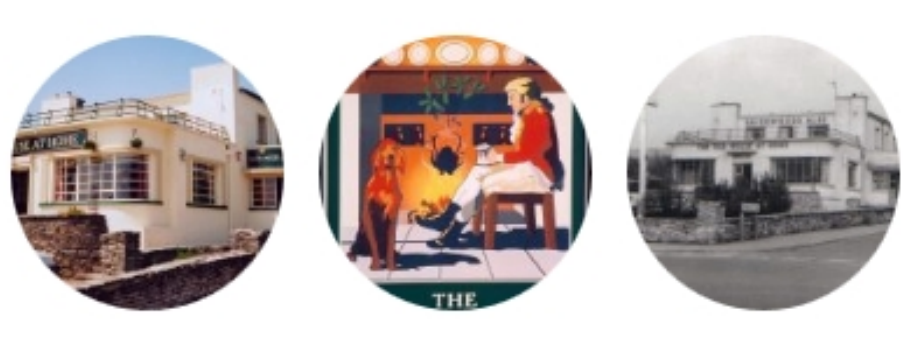
The Old George is another pub that stood on Kingston Road, Buckland, at its junction with Little George Street. A tavern existed on this site since at least 1823, though the building pictured dates from 1898. Its ornate glazed brickwork was retained after its conversion to an Age Concern premises in the mid 1980s. Originally owned by the Pike Brewery, it later became part of Portsmouth's large Brickwood's estate. The pub ceased trading in 1982 and the building finally succumbed to the bulldozers at the turn of 2005, when it was replaced by another Age Concern property.

Left-hand colour photograph 2004. Left-hand black & white photograph kindly supplied by J Taylor.

The Old House At Home
33 Jubilee Avenue, Paulsgrove

One of six pubs that could once be found throughout the Paulsgrove housing estate, the Old House at Home was the most westerly of these. Built in the 1930s in Art Deco style, this former Brickwood's and Whitbread pub spent the last years of its life under ownership of Dorset brewer Eldridge Pope. The pub served its last pints at around the start of the 21st century and has since been converted into housing. Thankfully a Grade II listing by English Heritage saved the property from demolition. The inn sign still stands.

Colour photographs June 2000 (kindly supplied by Ray Scarfe).



The Old Trafalgar
175/177 Fratton Road, Fratton

Still proudly proclaiming its former identity at roof level to this day, the Old Trafalgar stands on Fratton Road at its junction with Stamford Street. The Trafalgar Brewery traded here from 1879 and the pub became the Old Trafalgar in around 1956. The pub was once part of the Long's Brewery estate (as seen in the right-hand photograph) before being taken over by Brickwood's and latterly, Whitbread. The house served its last pints back in 1981, after which it was converted to flats.

Left-hand photograph 14th August 2005.

The Old Vic
104 St Paul's Road, Southsea

Built in 1900 in half-timbered *brewers tudor* style, the Old Vic was formerly known as the Borough Arms. The original interior was sadly ripped out in 1978 when the pub became a restaurant for a time. In the late 1980s it reopened as the Old Vic public house and became a popular and comfortable place in which to enjoy a drink.

Now a Grade II listed building, the mosaic tiled Brickwood's fascia was unfortunately removed (remnants can be seen in the second photo from left), although four original tiled panels still remain below the ground floor windows (right-hand photo). The pub was popular with the gay community, with regular live entertainment being hosted on the sizeable stage. Hampshire Constabulary saw fit to revoke the Old Vic's premises licence in August 2015 due to the level of public disorder eminating from the pub. The licence was since reinstated, but the pub never reopened for business. In early 2017 a planning application was granted to convert the upper storeys of the building to a seven bedroomed, multiple-occupancy house. A Lebanese restaurant has since opened on the ground floor.

Photographs (left to right): 19th September 2004; 11th May 1989; July 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 22nd July 2007.

The Old Victory
22 Victory Road, Portsea

This wedge-shaped pub could be found at the junction of Victory Road and College Lane, a short walk from The Hard and HMS Vernon. Dating from Victorian times, the house was owned by Portsmouth United Breweries during the first part of the 20th century, later transferring to Brickwood's with whom it remained until its demolition in 1967.

The Oliver Twist
373/375 Old Commercial Road, Landport

Located on Old Commercial Road and named in honour of Charles Dickens who was born on the same street, the Oliver Twist was built to replace a previous pub, the Mile End Cellars (see elsewhere on this website) and was unusual for being run by Scottish & Newcastle Breweries – a rarity in Portsmouth. Despite standing in a conservation area, it became another victim of its inner city location and the pub closed around the turn of the 21st century and was sold unlicensed. It now houses offices.

Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; April 2001 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Original Twyford Arms
67 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw

Closed for business sometime during the mid 1990s, this house stood on the Stamshaw one-way system, at its junction with Stanley Road. The pub formed part of the Burton-based Ind Coope chain of pubs until being sold to Gales as part of a job lot in the early '90s. It was always a prime candidate for closure, as no investment ever seemed to be made by its subsequent owners, resulting in a very basic down-at-heel boozer indeed. Now sadly converted to residential use.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 1988; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Osborne
401 (latterly 425) Commercial Road, Rudmore

This pub was one of many that once traded along the length of Commercial Road that once stretched from Stamshaw in the north to Southsea at its southerly end. Owned by the Lush Brewery in Victorian times, it stood adjacent to the Sailor's Return (see elsewhere on this site), on the opposite corner of Prospect Road. The house was originally known as the Osborne Tavern until undergoing alterations by prolific pub architect Arthur Cogswell in 1893. Reopening as the Osborne Hotel, the property became part of the large PUB estate (as seen in the left-hand photograph) and was later absorbed into the Brickwood's portfolio. The Osborne served its last customers in 1970 and was demolished in October of that year prior to the realignment and widening of what is now Mile End Road. The left-hand photograph also depicts a glimpse of the Sailor's Return (see elsewhere in this section) that faced the Osborne from the other side of Prospect Road and outlived its neighbour by a further three years.

The Osborne
68 Osborne Road, Southsea

A pub has existed on this site since at least the mid 19th century – and up until 2008 its name had remained the Osborne, in recongition of Queen Victoria's favourite home, Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight. The interior received a major facelift in the mid 1990s, providing the customer with a comfortable, large single bar room, with a good mixture of clientele, from daytime shoppers and businessmen to night-time clubbers.

The house underwent a number of changes of licencee throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, with varied success as far as trade was concerned. The popularity of the Gunwharf Quays development in Portsea had a detrimental effect on the pubs in this part of Southsea and as a consequence evening trade was often very light.

A major change came to the Osborne in 2008, when the lease was sold to local disc jockey Steve Kingsley, who promptly set about reinventing the pub as an 'entertainment bar'. This included the provision of a dancefloor and also saw the loss of the pub's historic name in favour of an eponymous rebranding after the licensee himself, which seems a great shame and a shade egotistic. Personally, the Webmaster believes that an historic pub name such as the Osborne (which had existed for well over 150 years) should be protected, but at least a pub that is trading is better than one that has closed for good!

Unfortunately, Kingsley's ceased to maintain pub hours, instead opening in the evening and trading more akin to a small night club. It has therefore been relegated to the *Lost Pubs* section of this website, as it is considered to no longer be a public house in the true sense of the term.

Photographs, left to right: 23rd November 2008; 23rd November 2008; 6th August 2005; November 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

Owtback Bar
4 Auckland Road West, Southsea

Previously known as Ashby's, this pseudo-Australian theme bar survived for a number of years through the 1990s until 2008. Facing a back-street car park on Ashby Place, off Osborne Road, the pub was popular with the 18-25 set and had a strong sporting emphasis, with a hefty dose of antipodian clichés thrown in for good measure. Curiously named with a daft spelling, the pub, not surprisingly, majored on lager and bottled cocktails. Thankfully, salvation came in August 2008 when the premises was transformed into a high quality boutique hotel, returning the premises to its original name.

Photographed 6th August 2005.

Next Page...

LOST PUBS – P

The Palmerston Arms
46 George Street, Buckland

This large Victorian corner pub could be found at the junction of George Street and South Road, in a residential district east of Fratton Road. Once owned by the Lush Brewery, the pub passed through the hands of Portsmouth United and Brickwood's before ending up in the portfolio of national company Whitbread. The pub was demolished in 1975 and the site is now occupied by private housing.

The Parade Hotel
30 Clarence Parade, Southsea

This ornate former Brickwood's pub stood on Clarence Parade, overlooking Southsea Common. Once a popular bar, its patronage declined in later years as new, modern bars opened in the more fashionable parts of town. The Parade was sold to developers in 2004 and was sadly demolished in July of that year. The building was one of the most architecturally significant premises facing the common and the council's willingness to allow its demolition was nothing short of contemptuous. The pub's inn sign, which stood on the opposite side of the street (left-hand photograph), remained in situ for many years after the building's demise. It now lies in storage at the City of Portsmouth Museum depot in Hilsea. These days the plot is occupied by a block of flats.

Colour photographs, left to right: 6th August 2005; 11th May 1989; August 2001 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Pelican
186-188 Commercial Road, Landport

Starting life as the Foresters Arms under ownership of Murrell's Brewery, this ornately-fronted tavern spent much of its life as a Peter's Brewery house, who's livery appears in the photograph below. Located in what is now the pedestrianised shopping area of Commercial Road, roughly where Burger King is situated, the pub's name was changed to the Pelican in the 1890s. The house survived until the early 1950s, when it was demolished to make way for new shops.

The Pelican
7 Conway Street, Landport

A typical Victorian corner pub, originally stood at the junction of Conway Street and Duncan Street, a stone's throw from the dockyard's Unicorn Gate and busy Commercial Road, the Pelican was once run by the tiny Miles Brewery and was acquired by Portsmouth United Breweries in the late 1890s, presumably later coming under the ownership of Brickwood's until its closure. It is unclear as to when the pub ceased trading, however these photos dating from 1965 show the pub looking rather forlorn and abandoned, being then located at the junction of Conway Street and the newly constructed Marketway. The left-hand image depicts the view from the end of Charlotte Street, looking south along Marketway, with the pub on the right. The right-hand photograph shows the Pelican in the background, as seen from further down Charlotte Street, with Robert Mack's government surplus store dominating the foreground.

Photographed 1965 (by Brian Pearcey).

The Penhale Arms
101 Fratton Road, Fratton

Yet another pub that was lost at the start of the 1980s, the Penhale Arms on Fratton Road started life as the Artillery Arms in the mid 1800s. The original pub (see far right-hand photo) was acquired by the local Jewell Brewery at the end of the 19th century and rebuilt by A E Cogswell in familiar *brewers tudor* style in 1926 for Brickwood's. The Penhale traded until 1982, at which time it was converted to retail premises. It is probable that the original Brickwood's fascia still survives behind its ugly modern replacement.

Near left-hand photograph 14th August 2005.

The Plough & Barleycorn
27/29 Lake Road, Landport

One of at least seventeen pubs that once stood on Lake Road throughout the early 20th century, the Plough & Barleycorn dated from 1896 and occupied the north side of the road, on the corner of the long-gone Cosham Street. As can be seen in the photograph, the pub was part of the Dorchester-based Eldridge Pope brewery, that ran a small number of pubs in Portsmouth until as recently as the 1990s. The pub was lost in 1940 when it became the victim of enemy bombing.

The Plymouth Street Cellars
57 Plymouth Street, Southsea

This grand, landmark Victorian cornerhouse stood at Plymouth Street's junction with Somerville Street and was part of Portsmouth's Young Brewery estate. The pub survived the war years and trading until 1964, at which time it was sold for redevelopment of the Somerstown area. Its footprint now stands beneath what is now Winston Churchill Avenue.

The Polar Star
45 London Road, North End

Located in the heart of North End's shopping centre, the Polar Star was built in 1908, in typical half-timbered *brewers tudor* style, replacing an earlier pub by the name of the Queen's Head. Surprisingly, the pub served its last ale as long ago as the 1950s and by 1958 it had been converted to retail use. These days it is divided into two separate shop units.

The Pompey
44 Frogmore Road, Fratton

Another pub designed by prolific Portsmouth architect A E Cogswell, the Pompey opened its doors in 1900. Situated on Frogmore Road, the building guards the main entrance to Fratton Park, home of Portsmouth Football Club. This former Brickwood's pub sadly called last orders for the final time around 1990 and was soonafter converted into the football club's *Pompey Shop*, where staff sold soccer kits from behind the same bar that once served pints! It building now houses the club's media centre.

Photographs, left to right: 28th April 1991, March 1991 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Portland Hotel (Havana Café Bar)
38/40 Kent Road, Southsea

Originally the Portland Hotel, this imposing end-of-terrace pub boasted a lively public bar, full of music memorabilia and even a red telephone box. It was a regular venue for live bands and had a good atmosphere. Unfortunately the bar acquired a poor reputation for drug use and in 1989 was refurbished and renamed Norma Jean's. Further interim name changes followed, including the One-Eyed Dog and the Dog.

It's last incarnation was as the Havana Café Bar, by which time the venue had seen better days. The Portland's original characterful bar sadly became a thing of the past and by 2007 the building was looking rather jaded, with some windows boarded up. The premises continued to trade until at least 2009. The upper floors of the building were damaged by fire in July 2010 and the premises now stand empty.

Photographs: 15th July 2007; 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

The Portsea Arms
26 Bishop Street, Portsea

Very much an example of a basic traditional corner pub, the Portsea Arms was tucked away on Bishop Street, off Queen Street. Originally a Pike Spicer house named the Butchers Arms, it was later renamed the Crown (see right-hand photograph) before assuming its last name in the 1980s. The pub served its last pints in 2002, shortly before the bulldozers moved in. A small block of flats now occupies the site.

Colour photographs, left to right: 11th May 1989; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Princess Alexandra
1 Castle Road, Southsea

Located in what is now a conservation area, the Princess Alexandra is one of four former pubs that can be found within a few hundred yards. Sporting an attractive half-timbered design, the pub survived into the 1970s but later fell into disuse before being renovated as a private house in 1980. It stands on the corner of Regent Place, close to the former Wheelbarrow pub (now Seller's coffee house).

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The Princess Royal
521 (formerly 489) Commercial Road, Rudmore

This mid-terraced pub stood towards the northern extremity of Commercial Road, in Rudmore, roughly opposite where the Air Balloon can still be found. Originally a Young's Brewery pub, the house was purchased by Brickwood's in 1934 and continued trading until 1970, being demolished in May of that year.

The Priory Inn
107A Victoria Road North, Southsea

Situated on Victoria Road North, close to Bradford Junction, the Priory Inn was rebuilt to an ugly 1950s design after the original pub was bombed out during the war. This small Whitbread-owned house surprisingly managed to delay its death knell by some years before finally succumbing in 2003, when it was demolished. The plot is now occupied by housing.

Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); unknown date (by Ray Scarfe).

The Pure Drop Inn
21 Sackville Street, Southsea

Located in what is now the Somerstown housing estate, the Pure Drop was a Portsmouth United Breweries tavern that stood on the corner of Sackville and Middle Streets. Once owned the small Biden's Brewery, it eventually became part of Brickwood's portfolio following that company's purchase of PUB in the 1950s. The pub survived until 1961, when a compulsory purchase order was placed upon it by the city council for the redevelopment of the Somerstown area.

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – Q

LOST PUBS – Q

The Queen Alexandra
125 Hertford Street, Landport

Located on the corner of Cressy Place, amidst the terraces of old Landport, this pub started life as the Brewers Arms and was part of a small tied estate belonging to Thomas Allen of the nearby Buckland [Steam] Brewery. The company was later taken over by Young's Brewery (Portsmouth) and the pub renamed the Queen Alexandra in 1934. The original tavern (shown in the photograph) was demolished in the early 1960s and a replacement pub constructed in its place. The new house was purchased by Ind Coope's Guildford subsidiary, Friary Meux, however the replacement pub was very short-lived, being closed and demolished in 1971, when most of the terraced streets were swept away for redevelopment. The pub's footprint now stands in the heart of the rundown Buckland Estate, roughly midway along Duke Crescent.

The Queen's Head
7 The Hard, Portsea

Shown on the far left of this photograph, in a terrace containing no less than five public houses, the Queen's Head was unusual in Portsmouth for being owned by Crowley & Co Brewers of Alton (a company that was taken over by Watneys in 1947). The pub can be traced back as far as the late 17th century and traded well in to the 1920s. The site is now occupied by a fish and chip shop.

The Queen's Inn
Osborne Road, Southsea

Located at the western end of Osborne Road, forming part of the Queen's Hotel that still dominates the street corner, the Queen's Inn was a one-bar Brickwood's house that traded throughout the 1970s. It later became the Buzz Bar (see right-hand photograph), a venue aimed at the younger drinker, but has since stood vacant for many years.

Right-hand photograph 2nd April 2004.

Next Page...

LOST PUBS – R

The Railway (The Rocket)
119 High Street, Cosham

Taking its name from the adjacent railway line, this former Victorian hotel spent a number of years trading as the Rocket before undergoing a major refurbishment in the early 1990s, when the pub was returned to its original name and the two bars were converted to a large single room, separated into two distinct areas. A further extension was completed later in the decade, with the addition of a conservatory area to the north side. The pub had a mainly younger clientele, drawn from the surrounding area. In its latter years the pub suffered a decline in reputation, as drinkers from the virtually pub-less Paulsgrove housing estate began to frequent the premises. Subsequently its popularity among other drinkers diminished in parallel. By early 2010 the pub was put up for sale and demolition followed in May 2011 (see photograph below). A block of residential apartments was built on the site in 2014.

Photographs:
Top row left to right: 11th March 2007; 16th May 2011; 11th March 2007; June 2002 (by Ray Scarfe); October 2000 (by Ray Scarfe).
Bottom row, left to right: October 2000 (by Ray Scarfe); 1960s (by Ray Scarfe); unknown date (x3).

The Railway Carriers
16 Greetham Street, Landport

Sited on the corner of Greetham Street and Belgrave Street (the latter of which no longer exists), the Railway Carriers was another of those Victorian taverns that could be found on almost every street corner in the 19th century. Originally a Miles Brewery house, the pub later became part of United's large estate before being taken over by Brickwood's. The pub survived until 1967, after which it was demolished.

Photograph kindly supplied by Neil Deville.

The Railway Hotel
2 Claremont Road, Fratton

Built as the Fratton Railway Hotel in 1887 to a design by A E Cogswell for the Lush Brewery, this large corner-house, set among the terraced housing of Fratton's backstreets, was later leased to Portsmouth United Breweries in 1911. The name was latterly shortened to the Railway Hotel by the time the pub was acquired by Brickwood's in the 1950s. The pub served its last pints in September 1981, at a time when then-owner Whitbread was closing and selling off a large chunk of its Portsmouth estate. The building stood empty for a number of years, falling into dereliction and was finally demolished in June 1999.

The Railway Hotel
98 Commercial Road, Landport

The Railway Hotel was a typical Victorian premises, located on Commercial Road at its junction with Station Street. Standing on the opposite corner from another pub, the Claremont Hotel (see right-hand photograph), the Railway was owned by the Spicer Brewery in the 19th century, becoming part of the Brickwood's estate in 1910. From 1937 the pub became known as Judd's Railway Hotel – the Judd family having ran the pub for many years previous. In 1971 the house was swallowed up by Whitbread and lasted just two more years until it was demolished in 1973 for the redevelopment of the Portsmouth & Southsea railway station forecourt.

The Raven
11 St James Road, Southsea

Located on the corner of St James Road and Wellington Street, in an area of the city that is unrecognisable from that depicted in the photograph, the Raven was known as the Royal Oak until 1934. Originally a Portsmouth United Breweries pub, it was later absorbed into the Brickwood's estate. The pub remained in business until 1967 when it was closed and demolished (along with a number of others in the neighbourhood) to make way for the 'regeneration' of Somerstown. The site is now home to a block of 21st century town houses, facing Portsmouth Magistrates' Court across Winston Churchill Avenue.

The Red Eagle
54 North Street, Portsea

Located on the corner of Prince George Street and North Street, in an area saturated with pubs in bygone years, the Red Eagle was once part of a small estate owned by the Mansbridge Brewery. Later in the hands of Portsmouth United Breweries, as seen in the photograph below, the house traded until the early 1960s, by which time it had become part of Brickwood's vast estate. Demolition came in September 1962.

The Red House
7 Cumberland Street, Portsea

One of dozens of pubs that proliferated between the dockyard walls and Queen Street in the early 20th Century, this terraced house was one of at least four on this street, and was owned by the tiny Kemp Town Brewery for much of its life, being rebuilt by the company in 1924. Towards the end of its trading days, ownership was transferred to Portsmouth United Breweries, though the tavern only survived until the mid 1930s – being demolished in 1938, along with much of the existing neighbourhood. The photograph below depicts the pub's regulars outside the Red House on Christmas Day 1926. The lettering above the door depicts the name of the incumbent licensee, Tom Mulcock.

The Red Lion
128 St Mary's Road, Fratton

Yet another pub that once traded on St Mary's Road, the Red Lion was the most easterly of the bunch. This former Long's Brewery pub could be found on the corner of Cuthbert Road and closed as far back as 1957 when it was converted to a launderette. By 1967 the premises had become a shop, which is how it remains to this day. A planning application in 2007 to renew the shopfront may mean that the premises looks quite different to how it appears in the photograph below.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The Registry
1-2 St Michael's Road, Southsea

This pub opened in 1999 in Portsmouth's former registry office following the purchase of the premises by major pub owning company Mitchells & Butlers. The premises underwent refurbishment in 2010, reopening under the new guise of the Kraken Wakes, named after the 1953 John Wyndham novel, but reverted to its original name the following year, when another refit was undertaken. The pub catered primarily for the student population and offered live music and DJs on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, the pub appeared to struggle in attracting a viable number of customers, despite its location in the heart of the University Quarter. By 2014 the pub had ceased trading and was due to be converted to university halls of residence. It is a pity that such a landmark building shall no longer be open to the public.

Photographs, left to right: 20th March 2011; 6th June 2010; 6th June 2010; 15th July 2007; July 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); October 2009 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Richmond Hotel
162 Lake Road, Landport

Located on the corner of Clarendon Street and Lake Road, on a site which is now undeveloped, the Richmond Hotel was a large Victorian establishment that began life as the Richmond Arms, briefly becoming known the Richmond Tavern in 1895. The house was owned for many years by Eldridge Pope of Dorchester (who's name can be seen on the facia in the photograph below). Later being sold to Gales of Horndean, the pub continued trading until around 1970. Demolition came in January 1971, at a time when the Lake Road area was seeing much redevelopment. The right-hand photo shows the Richmond on the far side of Lake Road, with the Horndean House glimpsed on the left and the Swan to the right (see elsewhere on these pages).

Right-hand photograph 12th October 1946.

The Ridgeway
5 Ridge Street, Landport

This old beerhouse stood close to the dockyard's Unicorn Gate and was rebuilt for J J Young's Brewery in 1908. The pub ended up in the hands of Staffordshire brewer Ind Coope in 1964 and served its last pints soon after, when much of the area was redeveloped. The pub's plot now stands beneath the Cascades Shopping Centre.

The Rifle
14-16 Buckland Street, Landport

Stood on the corner of Buckland Street, at its junction with Arthur Street, the Rifle was a small Victorian boozer typical of those once found on many street corners across the city. Variously owned by Allen's, Young's and Brickwood's breweries, the pub survived until 1966 when it was demolished prior to the construction of the Buckland Housing Estate.

Photographed 1946.

Roast Bar (Hong Kong Charlie's)
21/23 Guildhall Walk, Landport

This modern bar existed in various guises since the mid 1990s. Once the location for Hong Kong Charlie's bar and restaurant, it later became the Dôme Café Bar, lasting only a few years before Whitbread lost interest and the venue was renamed Vanilla, for reasons only the marketing men know! *(see right-hand photograph).* Its last incarnation had another puzzling name and was presumably aimed at a younger clientele – as are a number of the pubs on this street. The bar was converted to a nightclub in 2012 and has since become a coffee house.

Photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; 19th September 2004.

The Rodney
Spring Street, Landport

This traditional city centre pub was owned by Portsea brewer Brickwood's and sported a ground floor glazed brick façade, with mosaic tile lettering, in common with dozens of that company's houses. Little else is known about the pub, which was one of a handful that once traded on Spring Street (the last of these being the Rose of England, which became a café and subsequently a shop following the construction of the Cascades Shopping Centre in the 1980s).

The Royal Dragoon
15 Kingston Crescent, North End

Originally known as the Crescent Brewery Tap, this pub gained its latter name in 1904. Owned by the adjacent Crescent Brewery since mid Victorian times, by 1931 the Royal Dragoon had become part of the extensive Long's Brewery estate before being swallowed up by larger rivals Brickwood's later that decade. The pub survived until 1970, when major redevelopment of the nearby Baltic Timber Yard saw its demolition and the subsequent construction of the Baltic House office block.

The Royal Exchange
398 Commercial Road, Landport

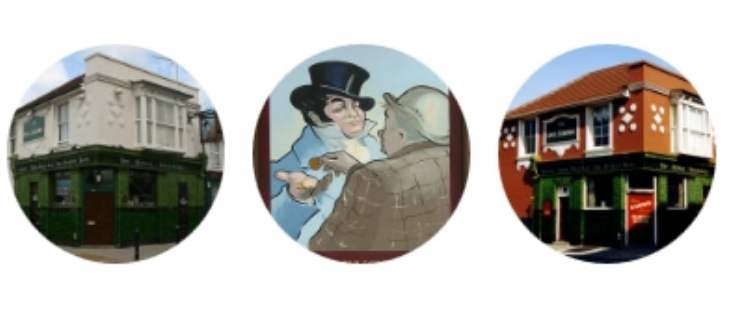
This former alehouse stood mid-terrace in what is now the conservation area of Old Commercial Road, almost opposite Charles Dickens' birthplace. Little is known about the pub or its then-owner, though it appears to have ceased trading in around 1894, with Joseph Lee being the final licensee. By 1918 the premises was home to a bootmaker by the name of William Stoneham.

Photographed 29th November 2015.

The Royal Exchange
124 Fawcett Road, Southsea

This ornate little corner house was, externally, one of the best preserved former United Breweries' pubs in the city. Its comprehensive green glazed brickwork being a distinctive feature. Dating from the late 19th century, the pub became part of the large Brickwood's estate before being taken over by Whitbread in the early 1970s and extended into the adjacent house in 1991. By 2006 it was in the hands of national pubco Enterprise Inns and four years later shut up shop for good. The ornate architecture still remains, though the premises has now been converted into three residential dwellings.

Photographs: 14th August 2005; 13th July 2008; July 1990.



The Royal George
4 Camden Alley (latterly 4 Camden Buildings), Queen Street, Portsea

The Royal George was one of dozens of pubs located in Portsea, close to the dockyard's Main Gate. Formerly owned by the Lush Brewery, the house passed through the hands of Isherwood & Williams before becoming part of the United estate in around 1911. The Royal George traded until 1956 and has since been demolished.

The Royal Marine(s) Artillery Tavern
58 Cromwell Road, Eastney

Located opposite the former Royal Marines Barracks, this large corner pub started life in the late 19th century and was once owned by Blakes of Gosport – later transferring to Brickwood's and then to George Gale & Co. In 2006 the pub was taken into the Fuller's estate and about ten years later was old off to an independent buyer.

The RMA sported one large bar room, with a separate function room to the rear, which once housed Portsmouth's only pub skittle alley. Live music was a popular attraction at the pub, with regular afternoon and evening performances. The RMA served its last customers in early 2018 and was sold off for conversion to housing – the application being uncontested by the city's unsympathetic planners, who appear to have no concern at the rapid loss of Portsmouth's traditional public houses.

Colour photographs, left to right: 9th November 2015; 31st May 2015 (by D Seall); 4th February 2007; 13th July 2008; 3rd January 2005; 11th May 1989.

The Royal Naval Arms
191 Queen Street, Portsea

The existence of a pub on this site can be traced back to the late 18th century, and there was probably one here much earlier than that, given that Queen Street was once home to dozens of hostelries due to its proximity to the naval dockyard. Trading as the King's Arms for well over a century, this pub was rebuilt in 1899. Despite this a further, somewhat majestic, rebuild was undertaken in 1916 to a design by A E Cogswell. The imposing structure stood three storeys high and featured a witch's hat tower – a once-familiar feature that can still be found on a number of pub buildings in Portsmouth. Renamed the Royal Naval Arms when reopened, the pub traded until the early 1970s, when it was regrettably demolished. The right-hand photograph shows the pub closed and boarded, awaiting its fate in 1972.

The Royal Oak
5 Marlborough Row, Portsea

This old tavern stood mid-terrace, a stone's throw from the original Marlborough Gate entrance to H M dockyard (seen in the background in the photograph below). This part of Portsea was once littered with dozens of pubs, the majority of which were closed in the 1920s following the objection by the then chief constable to the renewal of their licences. Owned in Victorian times by the tiny Dockmill Brewery (Rice) of Napier Road, Southsea, the pub later became part of the Gibbs Brewery estate before ending up in the hands of Brickwood's. It spent a short time in the 1920s and '30s trading as the Oak Apple. The pub's demise came in 1942 when, along with a number of others, it was closed and demolished along with the rest of the street, to make way for an extension to the dockyard.

The Royal Oak
171 Queen Street, Portsea

A pub by the name of the Royal Oak existed on this site since at least the mid 18th century. Known for much of the 19th century as the Royal Oak Hotel, the pub spent many years as part of the Pike Brewery estate. It later transferred to Brickwood's portfolio and closed its doors for the last time around the mid 1960s.

The Royal Oak Tree
238 (formerly 178) Lake Road, Landport

A Victorian corner house, stood on a street famed for its concentration of public houses, the Royal Oak Tree spent most of its life trading as the more familiar sounding Royal Oak, acquiring its latter name in around 1911. Occupying the junction of Terwick Street, the pub's location is now buried beneath the council flats of the Buckland Estate, due to the realignment of Lake Road in the early 1970s. Originally a Pike Brewery pub, the house was taken over by Brickwood's in 1910 and survived until 1971, when it was demolished for the redevelopment of the area.

The Royal Standard
190 Queen Street, Portsea

Located on a street which boasted literally dozens of public houses throughout the 19th century, the Royal Standard stood at 190 Queen Street an was previously known as the Sir John Barleycorn. Owned by a number of brewers throughout its life including Peters, Murrell's, Friary Meux of Guildford and latterly Ind Coope of Burton-upon-Trent, the pub survived until as recently as 1972. Queen Street has changed beyond all recognition over the last fifty years – what a pity that this historic part of Portsmouth has been all but erased from the map.

The right-hand photograph depicts the pub in the 1860s when the premises was run by a Mr George Richards. The house later received a new frontage, as seen in the centre photograph, taken in the early years of the 20th century when William Armond was the licensee. Also of note in the right-hand photograph is the existence of the White Bear, and old Jewell's pub located three doors from the Royal Standard.

Left-hand and centre photographs reproduced with kind permission of Stephen Pomeroy.

The Ruby Inn
1 (13) Lombard Street, Old Portsmouth

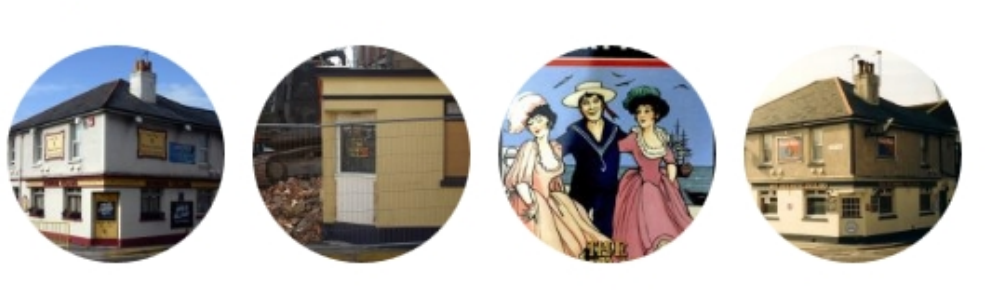
This attractive mid-to-late 17th century end-of-terrace property served as a public house for many years and traded until around 1923. Now a Grade II* listed buidling, note the distinctive Dutch gabled architectural design at second floor level.

Photographed 23rd February 2015.

The Rudmore Cellars
21 Rudmore Road, Rudmore

This late Victorian pub, tucked away behind the former P&O office building, stood outside the entrance to the city's Continental Ferry Port. Originally a Young's pub, the house later transferred to the Courage portfolio, then became part of the Friary Meux chain before being purchased by Portsmouth City Council as a facility for those transitting through the Ferry Port. In late 2008 the Port Authority announced that the pub would close, with alternative facilities being available in the terminal building (albeit in a completely different atmosphere!) The pub was demolished in April 2009.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; 9th April 2009 (courtesy of Rob Hall); unknown date (by Ray Scarfe); 18th February 1990.



Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – S

LOST PUBS – S

The Sailor's Return
427 Commercial Road, Rudmore

Located on the corner of Commercial Road and Prospect Road, the Sailor's Return stood opposite the Osborne Hotel, that can also be glimpsed in the foreground of the photograph below. Part of the Young's Brewery estate in the 1930s, the pub was later transferred to Peters before ending up with Friary Meux of Guildford in the '50s (as seen here). The death knell came when the whole of Mile End was redeveloped in the mid 1970s, destroying the character of the area and giving the city some of the ugliest buildings in Britian. The house was demolished in 1973 – outlasting the Osborne by three years.

The St George's Brewery Tap
4 Richmond Place, Portsea

This 19th century beerhouse was owned by the nearby Temple Brewery and from 1911 spent a number of years leased to Portsmouth United Breweries. Temple Brewery was closed in 1924, however the pub continued to trade until 1956. The site thereafter became part of the former St George's School, being used as both a library and office space. In 1993 the property was converted to private residences and renamed Seymour Terrace, located amidst University of Portsmouth buildings on St James's Street.

Colour photograph 16th March 2015

St George's Hotel
40/42 (formerly 24/26) St George's Square, Portsea

Once known as St George's Family & Commercial Hotel, this pub spent the early part of the 20th century under ownership of Brickwood's before being taken over by Portsmouth United Breweries in around 1934. The house fell victim to a bombing raid in the winter of 1940/1 and was never rebuilt.

The St Mary's Arms
36/38 St Mary's Road, Fratton

One of a dwindling number of street corner locals to be found in the densely populated residential streets of Fratton, the St Mary's Arms occupied the junction of Olinda Street and St Mary's Road. This was, until recent years, a thriving community local and once featured in CAMRA's *Good Beer Guide*. The pub had existed on this site since at least 1862 and was unusual in having retained the same name throughout its trading life. By early 2006 it had served its last customers and was closed and boarded. Another centre of community life was therefore lost, with demolition eventually taking place in January 2010. The plot is now occupied by flats.

Photographs, left to right: 18th May 2006; 14th August 2005; 14th August 2005; 18th February 1990; November 1998 (by Ray Scarfe).

The St Thomas Arms
52 St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth

Stood at the junction of St Thomas's Street and Lombard Street (formerly Golden Lion Lane), this pub existed since at least the mid-Victoria period, having passed through a number of owners until its closure in the 1920s. Once part of the small Crown Brewery estate and also operated by Brickwood's for a short spell, the pub was sold to Portsmouth United Breweries by Crown's owner in 1904, which whom it remained until the end. Nowadays the building is a private residence.

Photographed 16th March 2015

The Salisbury
Lonsdale Avenue, East Cosham

This large inter-war building in a residential district of East Cosham was originally constructed as an hotel for Portsmouth United Breweries in 1937. Later passing to Whitbread, it was bought by Wadworth of Devizes in the early 1990s. The pub fell on hard times in the early part of the 21st century until being taken over by a new licensee and refurbished in 2010, resulting in a well appointed interior and a friendly atmosphere. Sadly, the level of trade never managed to live up to expectations – the pub being poorly supported by the numerous residents that live in the surrounding streets – and the pub closed for good in 2014. In March 2015 the house underwent conversion to yet another unnecessary convenience store.

Photographs (left to right) 16th May 2011; 16th May 2011; 11th March 2007; October 2000 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Sallyport Inn/Hotel
57-58 High Street, Old Portsmouth

Once known as the Oyster Refreshment Rooms and later the Temperence Hotel, the Sallyport occupied an historic Grade II listed Georgian property in the oldest part of town. Trading under this name since the 1950s, the hotel had welcoming, comfortably-furnished bar, with a second area dedicated to dining. Plenty of bric-a-brac and naval memorabilia was displayed on the walls and there were hotel bedrooms on the upper storeys. In its latter years of trading the inn was part of a small chain of locally-owned pubs. Unfortunately, the owners took the decision to close the Sallyport and instead concentrate their business at the then newly-refurbished Monks Bar a short walk north along the High Street (which ironically has also since ceased trading).

The Sallyport has now been closed for a number of years, though plans are afoot to reopen the premises following a multi-million pound refurbishment. The timeframe for this project plans to have the premises back open in early 2018, with internal refurbishment due to commence in March 2017. It's hoped that the new-look Sallyport shall see the reopening of its public bar – at which time the house shall be reinstated onto the Current Pubs pages of this website.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; 18th February 1990; c.1954.

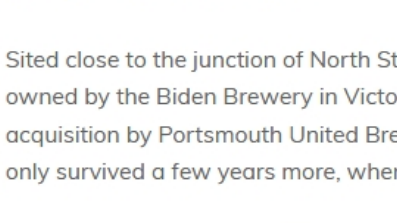
The Salutation
2 New Road, Buckland

The *Sally*, as it was affectionately known, was an institution among rock music fans across Portsmouth and beyond – you never came here for the beer! The pub was a champion for dozens of local bands who took to the small stage over the years. The Salutation was best remembered for hosting the *Monday Mafia* residency and for the drunken exploits of its Guinness-drinking licensee, Fred who ruled with an iron rod and often insisted on taking to the stage to play his battered trumpet…rather badly! The pub eventually succumbed to the inevitable in 1993 when it closed and was converted into a charity organization's premises. The building has since been demolished and replaced with a block of flats.

Photographed 14th August 1988.

The Sea Horse
152 Queen Street, Portsea

Sited close to the junction of North Street, in an area once littered with public houses, the Sea Horse was owned by the Biden Brewery in Victorian times and underwent external alterations in 1904 following its acquisition by Portsmouth United Breweries. The pub passed to nearby Brickwood's Brewery in 1953 and only survived a few years more, when the pub was demolished for the regeneration of the local area.



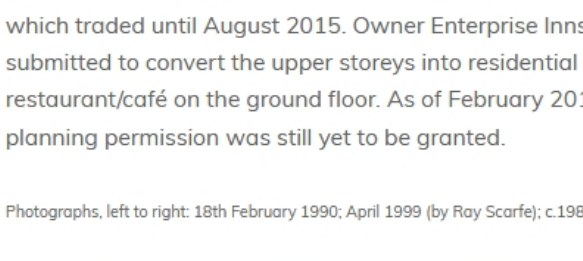
Seahorse Bars
Clarence Esplanade, Southsea

Opened in 1958 as the Clarence Pier to replace the former Esplanade Hotel (see elsewhere on this site), the Seahorse Bars were named such in 1964 and were operated by Portsea's Brickwood's brewery. By 1991 the venue had been renamed Barnums and in June of 1993 was destroyed by fire in the aftermath of a road traffic collision. Demolition followed and the site was incorporated into the adjacent funfair.

Scott's Bar
37 Eldon Street, Southsea

Originally the Elm Brewery Tap (the brewery standing on the opposite corner), Scott's Bar was a popular free house and restaurant, with a large first floor function room. The pub was well-known for its range of quality real ales and sported a rare, ornate eight-pull beer engine on the back wall behind the bar counter (see photograph below). The pub was closed in the late 1990s and became the *Kitsch N D'or* French restaurant, which traded until August 2015. Owner Enterprise Inns offloaded the building in 2016 and plans were submitted to convert the upper storeys into residential accommodation, whilst retaining a (smaller) restaurant/café on the ground floor. As of February 2017 internal works were being carried out, though planning permission was still yet to be granted.

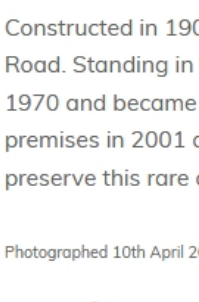
Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); c.1986 (by Peter Whitehead).



The Seagull
13 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

Constructed in 1900 for Jewell's brewery, this house is of very similar external design to the Florist on Fratton Road. Standing in the heart of the city's historic old town, the Grade II listed Seagull closed as long ago as 1970 and became a restaurant by the same name. It later saw further conversion to an estate agent's premises in 2001 and remains in that guise to this day. A sympathetic external facelift in 2014 has helped to preserve this rare architectural survivor.

Photographed 10th April 2004.

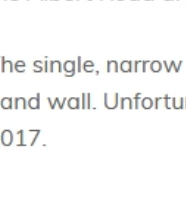


Shack Bar & Kitchen
92 Albert Road, Southsea

Opened in November 2015 in the premises formerly occupied by Mojo's, this quirky maritime-themed bar and eaterie offered something a little different from the many other licensed premises to be found in and around the Albert Road area and was aimed at a predominantly younger clientele.

The single, narrow bar room featured a series of striking murals, painted by a local artist, dominating the left-hand wall. Unfortunately, the bar struggled to maintain a high enough level of custom and ceased trading in 2017.

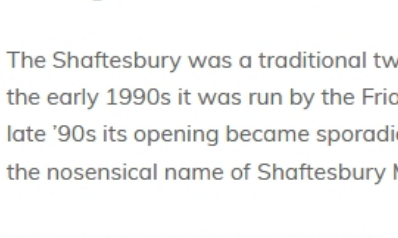
Photographed 9th March 2017.



The Shaftesbury
119 Kingston Road, Buckland

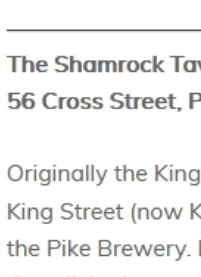
The Shaftesbury was a traditional two-bar local situated on the main thoroughfare of Kingston Road. Until the early 1990s it was run by the Friary Meux pub chain before being sold to Gales as part of a job lot. By the late '90s its opening became sporadic and the premises were eventually converted to residential use, under the nosensical name of Shaftesbury Mews (a mews being nowhere to be seen!)

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 1988; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).



The Shamrock Tavern
56 Cross Street, Portsea

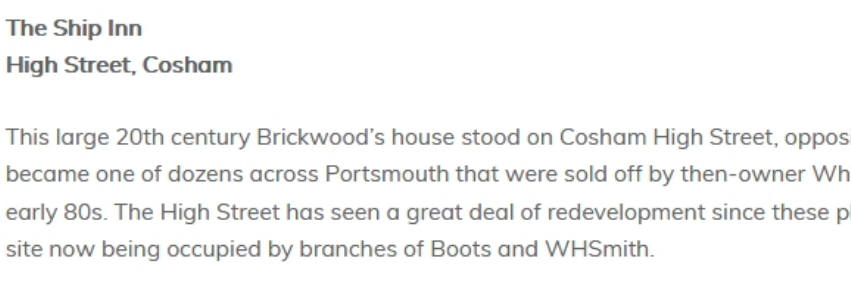
Originally the King's Head (and at one point the King's Head & Mitre), owing to its location on the corner of King Street (now King William Street), this pub underwent a name change in the 1860s when it was run by the Pike Brewery. Latterly owned by nearby Brickwood's, the Shamrock survived until 1962 and was demolished soon after.



The Ship Inn
High Street, Cosham

This large 20th century Brickwood's house stood on Cosham High Street, opposite Magdala Road. The pub became one of dozens across Portsmouth that were sold off by then-owner Whitbread in the late 70s and early 80s. The High Street has seen a great deal of redevelopment since these photographs were taken – the site now being occupied by branches of Boots and WHSmith.

Photograph (fourth from left) reproduced with kind permission of Philip Pyke.



The Ship Leopard
15/16 The Hard, Portsea

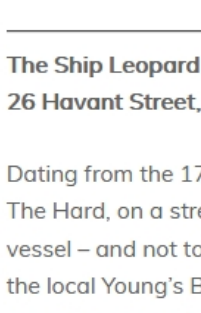
Occupying an historic premises on Portsea's waterfront, the Ship Leopard was actually not such an old pub as it appeared to be. A former off-licence premises, the Leopard was opened for business in 1976 by Burton brewers Ind Coope. It was a pleasant pub, with a nautical theme, though sadly this was all lost when in 1990 the pub was sold and became Hard Times bar and diner. This incarnation lasted less than four years and after a refit in 1994 the bar reopened as McCoy's.

By 2003 the Ship Leopard name was back, but unfortunately the pub was refitted with a spartan, white-walled interior and had little atmosphere. By the Spring of 2007 the pub had closed and conditional planning permission had been granted to convert the premises into flats. However, after standing empty for a prolonged period, the building was given a comprehensive refurbishment and the Ship Leopard name was resurrected, this time as a boutique hotel.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; September 2003 (by Ray Scarfe); September 2003 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

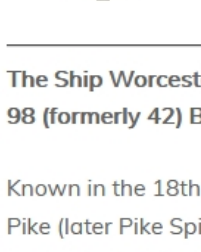
The Ship Leopard
26 Havant Street, Portsea

Dating from the 17th century and known until the 18th century as the Leopard, this old tavern stood behind The Hard, on a street with around a dozen pubs along its short length. Named in honour of a Royal Naval vessel – and not to be confused a pub of the same name on The Hard (see above), the pub was once part of the local Young's Brewery estate, passing to Friary Meux of Guildford in 1964 and given the branding of parent company Ind Coope. The house became the subject of a compulsory purchase order in 1968 and fell victim to the bulldozers three years later. The site is now home to council flats and a small open space.



The Ship Worcester
98 (formerly 42) Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

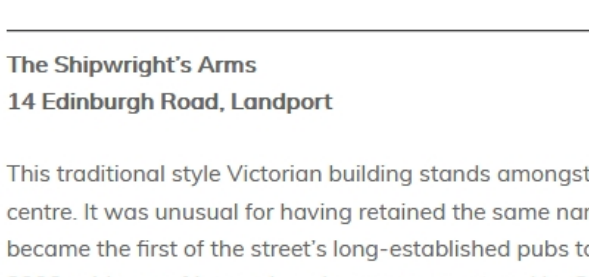
Known in the 18th century as simply The Worcester, this old tavern spent many years under ownership of the Pike (later Pike Spicer) brewery. The photograph clearly displays the name of the incumbent licensee, Jacob Bushnell, who presided over the pub between the years of 1863-88. The Ship Worcester traded until 1908 and later became a shop. The building itself survived as long as the 1960s – it having spent many years trading as Grogan's Cafe.



The Shipwright's Arms
14 Edinburgh Road, Landport

This traditional style Victorian building stands amongst a row of four pubs on Edinburgh Road, in the city centre. It was unusual for having retained the same name for over 150 years. However, in 2005 the pub became the first of the street's long-established pubs to close its doors and was soon boarded up. By mid 2006 evidence of internal work was apparent and by September of that year all internal fittings had been stripped out. By the spring of 2007 it had been reopened as a takeaway food establishment.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005; 18th July 2008; 18th February 1990.



The Shoveller's Arms
East Street, Old Portsmouth

Starting life as the Three Tuns, the Shoveller's stood close to the Camber Dock. Owned by the Pike Brewery in the 19th century and latterly Brickwoods, the name change came about in 1905. In 1928 the pub closed and the licence transferred to the Jolly Taxpayer in Copnor.

The Sir Robert Peel
Astley Street, Southsea

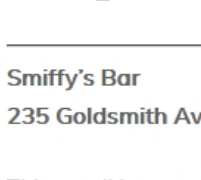
Built in 1967 as part of the sprawling Somerstown housing estate, the Robert Peel was part of the Friary Meux estate until being sold to Gales in 1990. The pub latterly became a free house in the mid 90s under the ownership of local licensees Tony & Wendy Mitchell and became an unlikely magnet for serious beer drinkers from far and wide. The Mitchells' relocation to Spain meant the pub closed for good in early 2004. The building has since been demolished and the site is now home to *Sir Robert Peel House*, a residential block of flats, after being a vacant plot for seven years.

Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; September 1998 (by Ray Scarfe).

Smiffy's Bar
235 Goldsmith Avenue, Fratton

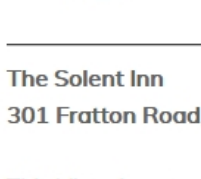
This small bar opened within the first few years of the 21st century and was situated opposite the overbridge that connects Fratton Station with Goldsmith Avenue. Advertising itself as a bistro, it offered food all day, as well as real ale and coffee. Popular with those visiting Fratton Park to see Portsmouth Football Club matches, it was rumoured to attract the rougher element of the local soccer crowd. The bar closed in late 2010.

Photographed 2nd January 2005.



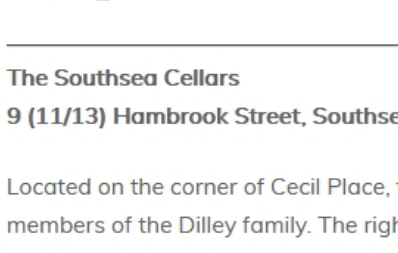
The Solent Inn
301 Fratton Road, Buckland

This Victorian street corner local stood at the northern end of busy Fratton Road, at its junction with Kilmiston Street. Owned by small companies such as Browning and Kinnell & Hartley in late Victorian and Edwardian times, the house became part of Portsmouth United Breweries' estate and subsequently passed to Brickwood's in the 1950s. The pub's death knell came in 1967, with the redevelopment of the Buckland area and the realignment and irradication of much of the original street plan. The pub's footprint would roughly correspond to where the bus shelter now stands, to the south of Hanway Road.



The Southsea Cellars
9 (11/13) Hambrook Street, Southsea

Located on the corner of Cecil Place, this small Long's pub was run for almost a hundred years by various members of the Dilley family. The right-hand photograph depicts one-time landlord Charles Dilley (far left) outside the pub during the 1920s – himself being licensee for an impressive 39 years. The pub was situated a stone's throw from the substantial brewery site on the same street (the bottle store of which still stands) and later passed into the hands of Brickwood's following its acquisition of the Southsea Brewery. The Cellars sold its last pints in 1967, closing upon the death of Gladys Dilley. A compulsory purchase order led to the demolition of the pub in 1969, together with much of the surrounding area, as part of the regeneration of this corner of Southsea. The site is now home to Portsmouth High School's science department.



The Sportsman
8 Kingston Cross (118 Kingston Crescent), North End

Formerly the Eagle until the 1880s, the Sportsman stood mid-terrace at busy Kingston Cross. Purchased from the Jewell brewery by Brickwood's in around 1899, the pub survived until 1938 when it was demolished along with the adjacent buildings to make way for a road widening scheme.

The Sportsman's Rest
24 Copnor Road, Copnor

Remarkably, this Victorian corner pub kept the same name since the 19th century until its closure in 2009, despite having changed hands many times in the intervening years. At one time owned by the United, Brickwood's and Whitbread breweries (among others) the pub remained a true locals' local. Unfortunately, the changing drinking habits of the local population in the 21st century saw trade decline and by October 2009 the pub's name was added to the increasing amount of seemingly 'unviable' pubs across the city. After many months of standing empty, planning permission was granted in spring 2011 to convert the building into four flats and one house.

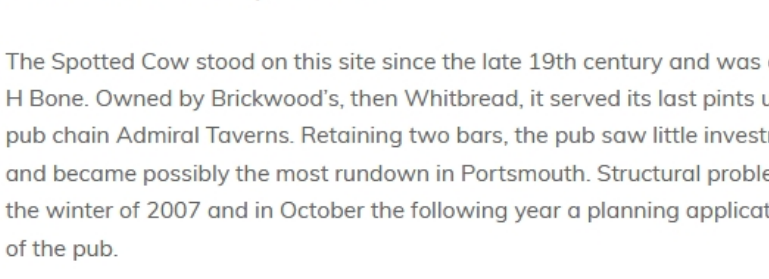
Photographs, left to right: 26th May 2011; 14th August 2005; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 14th August 1988.

The Spotted Cow
116 North End Avenue, North End

The Spotted Cow stood on this site since the late 19th century and was designed by Victorian pub architect A H Bone. Owned by Brickwood's, then Whitbread, it served its last pints under the ownership of independent pub chain Admiral Taverns. Retaining two bars, the pub saw little investment in the last twenty years of its life and became possibly the most rundown in Portsmouth. Structural problems forced the closure of the pub in the winter of 2007 and in October the following year a planning application was submitted for the demolition of the pub.

Thanks to widespread disapproval of the plans by local residents and historians, the original plans were thrown out by the city planners. A revised application was subsequently put forward to convert the existing building for residential use. The closure of the pub was never unexpected, but the demolition of a significant licensed premises would have been a great shame. Thankfully, the building still stands, having been converted to apartments in 2014.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; 13th July 2008; 14th August 1988; June 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).



The Spread Eagle
148 Arundel Street, Landport

Occupying the corner of Arundel Street and Cottage View, this attractive Victorian Brickwood's pub was particularly noteable for the impressive sculpture of an eagle mounted at roof level (depicted in the photograph below). The pub traded until 1972, when, a year after its takeover by London brewer Whitbread, the house was demolished for the redevelopment of Arundel Street.

Stadium Bar (Walkabout)
5/7 Guildhall Walk, Landport

Housed in the former Walkabout Australian bar which originally opened around the beginning of the 21st century, the Stadium Bar came into existence in early 2011. Originally an office block by the name of Hippodrome House (named after the theatre that once occupied the site), there were further plans to extend the bar onto the first floor, though as of February 2011 this failed to gain planning permission. The business was short-lived and by mid 2012 had closed for good. Owner Inventive Leisure later sold the premises to supermarket chain J Sainsbury and the building reopened as a Sainsbury's Local store towards the end of that year.

Photographed 19th September 2004.

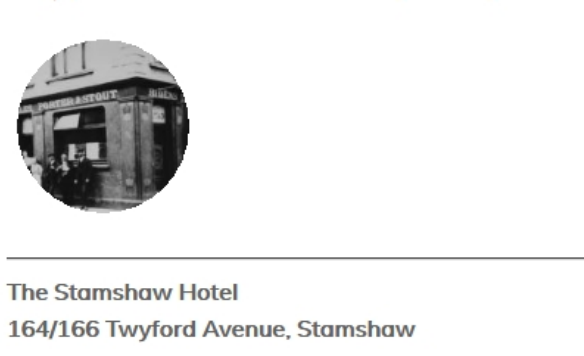
The Stag
89 St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth

Originally owned by Portsmouth's small Biden's Brewery, the Stag was later bought by United Breweries. A victim of a German bomb in 1940, planning premission was new granted for the rebuilding of the house. Many pubs could once be found along the length of St Thomas's Street. The Stag was a late survivor.

The Stamshaw Hotel
164/166 Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw

Built in 1903 as the Stamshaw Hotel to a Cogswell design, this Peters Brewery pub was later to become part of the Friary Meux and Ind Coope chain of inns. A lively community local, it features traditional pub games and a single bar room. Following a short period of closure during the summer of 2009, the pub was due to reopen in early September of that year with the former licensee of the nearby Beresford at the helm. Sadly, and maybe inevitably, the business didn't last long and by the spring of 2010 the pub was closed and boarded. Planning permission was granted in August 2010 to convert the pub into nine flats.

Photographs, left to right: 30th September 2006; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); 14th August 1988.



The Star
177/179 Lake Road, Landport

Located on the north side of Lake Road, mid-distance between Church Street and Duke Street, this terraced pub dated from early Victorian times and was variously known as the Star Inn, Star Tavern and Star Hotel. Originally part of Gosport's Blake's Brewery estate, the premises became part of the Brickwood's portfolio in 1926 and was subsequently taken over by Whitbread in 1971. The pub traded for a further decade until it was closed and demolished in 1981 – as was the fate for many Whitbread pubs in the early '80s.

The Star & Garter Hotel
100 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

This attractive Georgian terraced public house and hotel stood close to the foot of Broad Street, in an area that is now undergoing redevelopment. Just one of many pubs that once stood on this historic street, the building was part of the local Gibbs Brewery portfolio of pubs during the 19th century before becoming one of Portsmouth's United Breweries tied houses. Advertised in 1865 as the Star & Garter Army, Navy & Family Hotel, the pub suffered bomb damage in 1940 as a result on enemy air attacks. The pub survived until January 1954 when it was demolished to make way for the Isle of Wight ferry operation, who's slipway was located just yards away. Following the demise of the house, its spirit licence was transferred to the Star & Garter on Copnor Road – another United pub, which had been opened in 1927 and presumably only licenced at that time to serve ale.

The Still
2 Kent Road, Portsea

This old *brewers tudor* style building remains to this day – now standing in a conservation area. The buiding occupies a prominent position on the corner of Kent Street and St James's Street, Portsea. Previously known as the Man & Still, it was rebuilt in 1904 by A E Cogswell for the Pike Spicer brewery. The pub eventually closed in 1978 and was converted to other use. The premises underwent a restoration in the summer of 2007 and is now used as a business premises.

Colour photograph 28th March 2005.

Storehouse No.9 Bar
Main Road, Historic Dockyard, Portsea

This temporary pub traded throughout 2005 within a listed storehouse building in the Historic Dockyard. Catering primarily for tourists, the pub was run by Gosport brewer Oakleaf, who's own ales were available, as well as a real cider. Open to all, customers did not have to purchase a ticket to the dockyard to use the pub. What a shame the arrangment could not have been made permanant, as visitors to the dockyard now have only a soulless café bar area in which to purchase a bland beer or lager.

Photographed 4th September 2005.

The Strand Bar (Captain's Table)
100 Clarendon Road, Southsea

Originally the Waverley Arms, this pub was renamed the Captain's Table in the 1960s before acquiring its last identity in 1999. Dating from Victorian times, the pub was located a short distance from Southsea seafront and a short walk from South Parade Pier. Once popular with a loyal local patronage, the house also received custom from those on their way to Southsea's nearby nightclubs at weekends. Unfortunately, the closure in 2007 of the four clubs housed within the Savoy Buildings on South Parade meant that the pub lost a vital source of trade.

By April 2011 the pub had ceased trading and was swiftly boarded up. The second of the photographs below shows an interesting (but not altogether tasteful) anagram of the pub's name, carried out by persons unknown, following the pub's closure. An attack on the chancellor's latest beer duty rises, maybe – or the boss at Punch Taverns?! The centre photograph depicts the pub's interior following its closure. Thanks go to Roy Anderson for the supply of this image.

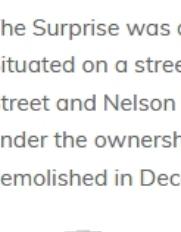
Photographs, left to right: 13th July 2008; 4th April 2011 (by Rob Hall); 1st June 2011 (by Roy Anderson); 19th September 2004; 11th May 1989.

The Surprise
56-60 Baker Street, Southsea

The Surprise was one of many pubs that could once be found on what is now the sprawling Buckland Estate. Situated on a street which is now a fraction of its former length, the pub was located close to where Victoria Street and Nelson Road now meet. A Simmonds house in the late 19th century, the Surprise later spent time under the ownership of United, Brickwood's and lastly, Whitbread. Surviving as late as 1983, the pub was demolished in December of that year to make way for housing.

The Sussex Hotel
1 Russell Street, Buckland

This landmark hostelry stood directly opposite Portsmouth Guildhall, in what later became Guildhall Square. A large Victorian corner house, owned by Brickwood's, the house was an unfortunate casualty of the redevelopment of the Square, which saw the demolition and eradication of Russell Street to make way for the controversial new Civic Offices and Central Library development. The Sussex was brought down in 1972, less than a year after Whitbread's takeover of Brickwood's.



The Swan
100 Copnor Road, Copnor

This late Victorian tavern on busy Copnor Road was originally part of the Peters Brewery. Later owned by Ind Coope then transferred to fellow Burton-upon-Trent brewer Bass, the pub retained three separate bars until the 1990s, when they were knocked through into one large room. The final owner, Mitchells & Butlers, reinvented the pub as a local hostelry that majored on food, though this ultimately proved unsuccessful, probably due to the proliferation of similar, though better quality, pub diners along the length of Copnor Road.

Following a period of closure throughout the first half of 2009, the pub reopened for business in July of that year, with new licensees. Sadly, trade never returned to the levels previously attained and by early 2011 the pub was once again closed and now boarded. A planning application was submitted in April 2011 to demolish the pub and build a block of flats on the site – this becoming reality in 2013/14.

Photographs, left to right: 26th May 2011; 11th August 2011; 14th August 2005; 14th August 1988.

The Swan
40 High Street, Cosham

This large corner house was located in Cosham's main shopping area. The pub was originally a typical two-bar local but became rundown in the 1980s. It was refronted and refitted internally during the early 1990s in the style of a café bar in an attempt the draw in shoppers throughout the day. However, the pub suffered further problems in the late 1990s when J D Wetherspoon opened a large establishment next-door-but-one, offering food and drink at prices that the *Swan* was unable to match. The pub managed to survive until the middle of 2016, when it served its last pints and the licensee left in order to open a new bar further south on the High Street.

Colour photographs (left to right): 11th March 2007; April 1999 (by Ray Scarfe); October 2001(by Ray Scarfe).

The Swan
211 Lake Road, Buckland

The Swan still stands on Lake Road, Buckland, on the corner of Turner Road, but is now in the guise of a Ladbroke's betting shop. The building dates from 1896, though there have also been pubs on the site prior to this date. The Sir Charles Napier can be traced back to 1874, surviving until 1887 when the house became known as the Sea Horse. The Swan was eventually closed in 1981 by Whitbread, having previously been owned by United (see right-hand photo) and Brickwood's.

The pub's name still appears at first floor level – though it is now somewhat obscurred by black paint in the photo to the left. A glimpse of another pub, the Horndean House (owned by Gales) can be spotted in the two right-hand photographs, situated as it was on the opposite corner of Turner Road. It was demolished in the 1960s. The right-hand photo shows the Swan on the right-hand side, by the crouched Ordnance Survey gentleman, whilst the Richmond Hotel appears across the other side of Lake Road.

Left-hand photograph 14th August 2005. Right-hand photograph 12th October 1946.

Next Page…

LOST PUBS – T

The Talbot
207 Goldsmith Avenue, Southsea

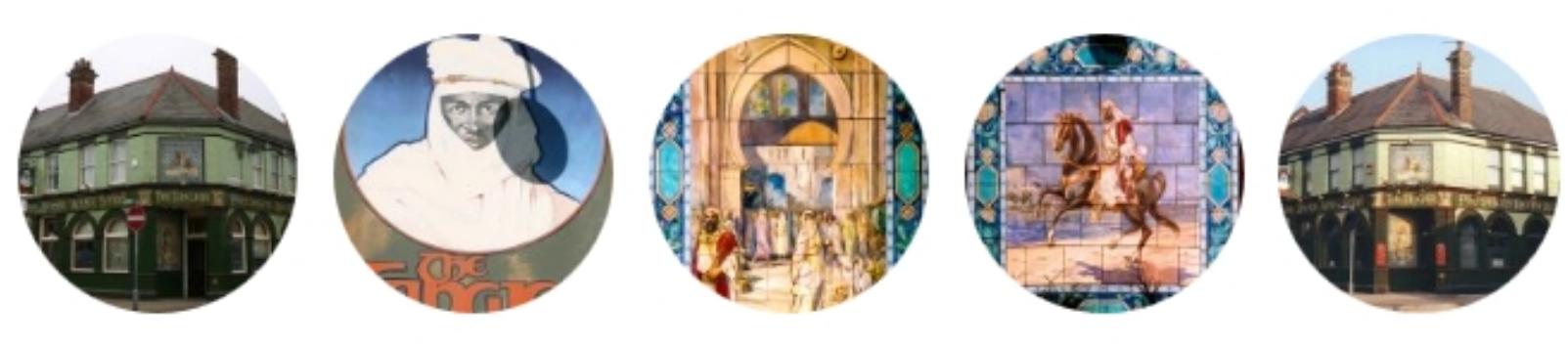
A E Cogswell's imposing Talbot on Goldsmith Avenue was constructed in 1896, in half-timbered *brewers tudor* style, to service the local inhabitants and those using the adjacent Fratton railway station. Built for Brickwood's brewery, the building still retains its original livery despite not having served any ale since 1981, when it was closed and converted to a hostel.

Left-hand photograph 3rd January 2005. Right-hand photography 1980 (courtesy of Steve Payne).

The Tangier
61/63 Tangier Road, Baffins

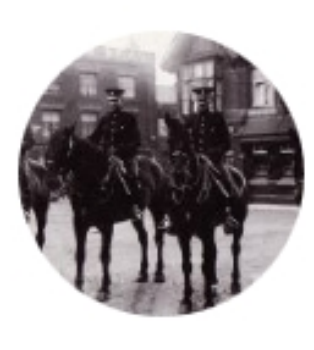
Another architectural gem by A E Cogswell, the Tangier was built in 1912 for Portsmouth United Breweries and features large tiled murals on the frontage, including one of Tangiers Market at the entrance. The pub retained its two distinctively separate bars throughout its trading life – a comfortable lounge to the left and a larger public bar on the right as you enter. Sadly, in the latter few years that the pub was open, it suffered from not only a lack of sustainable custom, but also began to attract some less attractive elements of society. Following a period of closure, planning consent was given in October 2013 to allow the ground floor of the Grade II listed pub to be converted to a convenience store, with the upper storeys being transformed into private flats. However, as of March 2015, the ground floor of the pub remains vacant and externally intact.

Photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; 13th July 2008; April 2002 (by Ray Scarfe); April 2002 (by Ray Scarfe); 28th April 1991.



The Temperance Hotel
St George's Road, Old Portsmouth

Located on the corner of Warblington Street and St George's Road, opposite the Gloucester Hotel, the Temperance Hotel can be seen behind the two horsemen on the left-hand side of the photograph. No other details available at this time.



The Taswell Arms
42 Taswell Road, Southsea

This former Pike's Brewery pub existed on this street corner for well over 100 years. Built originally as a hotel, the pub was once a popular, comfortable pub located in a pleasant residential part of Southsea. The Taswell became a student favourite in the 1990s but closed for an extended period later in that decade before reopening at the end of the century. Trade steadily declined thereafter and a change in licensee failed to improve the business. By early 2012 the pub had served its last customers and in February of that year the internal fittings were removed and signage dismantled, as the building began its transformation into a private residence.

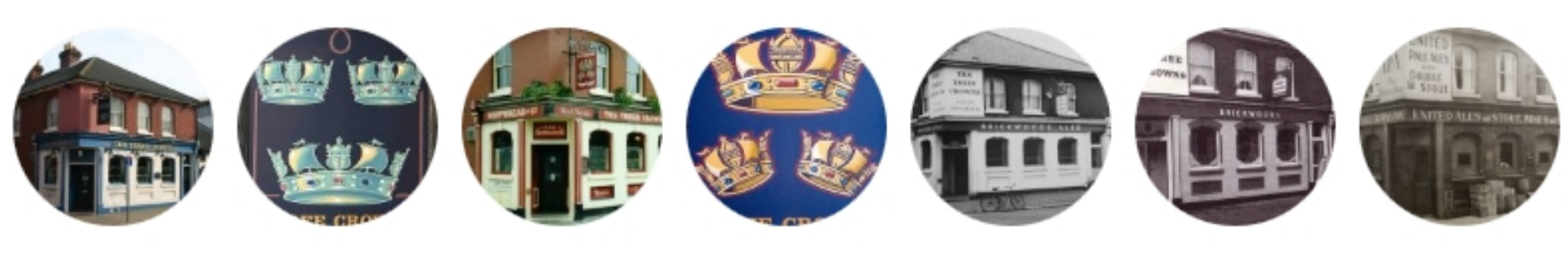
Photographs, left to right: 6th August 2005; 13th July 2008; 11th May 1989.

The Three Crowns
10 St James's Street, Portsea

A pub named the Three Crowns can be traced back on St James's Street as far as the 18th century. During the mid 19th century the pub was owned by Henty's Brewery of Chichester and thereafter by Brickwood's (see right-hand photograph). By the late 1970s the house was in the hands of national brewer Whitbread and during the 1990s it received a deserved refit. It remained a popular, comfortable pub, used mainly by locals, along with students from the local university buildings. A rare example of a true, traditional local in Portsea.

The death knell for the pub came in 2007 when the premises was purchased by a local property developer. A hand-written sign placed in the window read "Closed until further notice", although this may just have well read "Closed forever" as it was never the owner's intention to reopen the premises. A planning application was submitted in the summer of 2007 to demolish the pub and build a four storey block of flats on the site. Sadly, the city planners backed this idea and permission was granted on 14th November 2007. However, the developers subsequently pulled out of the plan, but not before knocking down the pub and leaving an empty plot. A considerable time passed before the site was eventually redeveloped.

Colour photographs, left to right: 28th March 2005; 25th July 2007; 11th May 1989; March 1999 (by Ray Scarfe).

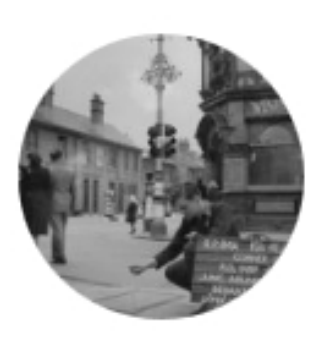


The Thurloe Arms
261 Arundel Street (formerly 179 Fratton Street), Fratton

One of many public houses that could once be found along the length of Arundel Street, the Thurloe Arms was a Victorian cornerhouse, built to an understated design by Arthur Cogswell and very similar to his Jameson Arms which still stands on nearby Church Street (see elsewhere on this site). The pub occupied the junction of Arundel Street and St John's Road, where the Holbrook Road roundabout is now located. Once owned by the tiny Cosham Steam Brewery, the house latterly became part of the PUB estate until being absorbed into Brickwood's portfolio in the 1950s. The Thurloe continued to trade until the mid '60s and was demolished in 1966.

The image below shows the Thurloe stood diagonally opposite the camera, with the original Black Dog seen facing it across the road at number 263.

Photographed 19th September 1946 (historic Ordnance Survey image).



Totterdell's Hotel
102/104 (formerly 82/83) St George's Square, Portsea

This substantial building stood on an island plot at the centre of St George's Square, in an area that has changed beyond all recognition since the 1940s. Owned by the Totterdell family throughout much of its existence, the business traded for over one hundred years and this was proudly proclaimed on the hotel façade. By 1923 the hotel has been acquired by Portsmouth United Breweries. The premises was the victim of a bombing raid in 1940 and the abandoned building can be seen in the photograph below.

The Trafalgar
16 Edinburgh Road, Landport

This was J D Wetherspoon's most recent pub conversion on Portsea Island and the first of its Lloyds No.1 brand. Housed within the deceptively large, Grade II listed Trafalgar House (a former Church of England Soldiers and Sailors Institute), the premises includes a fine mural in one of the first floor rooms, depicting various scenes of early 20th century Portsea Island life, rediscovered during conversion of the premises prior to the pub's opening.

The pub was a veritable rabbit warren – a sprawling, multi-leveled pub which suffered from a lack of natural light, as the majority of its floorspace was devoid of any significant fenestration. The Trafalgar was one of a number of houses that the Company identified as underperforming in early 2016 and deemed surplus to requirement. It served its last customers in the summer of that year and is now (February 2017) awaiting conversion to student accommodation. It's hoped that the aforementioned mural is retained and preserved for the enjoyment of the building's future occupants.

Colour photograph 19th September 2004.

The Tramway Arms
1 Kingston Road, Buckland

The former Tramway Arms dominates the southern extremity of Kingston Road and still bears the distinctive Portsmouth United Breweries cypher at roof level. The pub later became part of the Brickwood's estate before being closed by Whitbread in the early 1980s. It was used as office space for some years until being converted to a successful Indian restaurant in the spring of 2004.

Left-hand photograph 2004.

The Traveller's Joy
253 Milton Road, Milton

This pub name existed on this site since at least the early 19th century and was once owned by the Peters Brewery. The pictured house had a public bar at the front, with a larger lounge at the rear. Owned by Friary Meux (Allied Brewers) until the 1990s, the house later became part of Punch Taverns' portfolio. In its last years of operating it became increasingly run down, though remained popular when Portsmouth FC were playing home fixtures. In mid 2010 a planning application was submitted to replace the pub with flats and a veterinary surgery. The house finally closed its doors in April 2011 and demolition soon followed.

Photographs (left to right): 15th July 2007; 13th July 2008; 26th May 2011; 28th April 1991; December 1994 (by Ray Scarfe); December 1994 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Traveller's Rest
12 St Mary's Road, Fratton

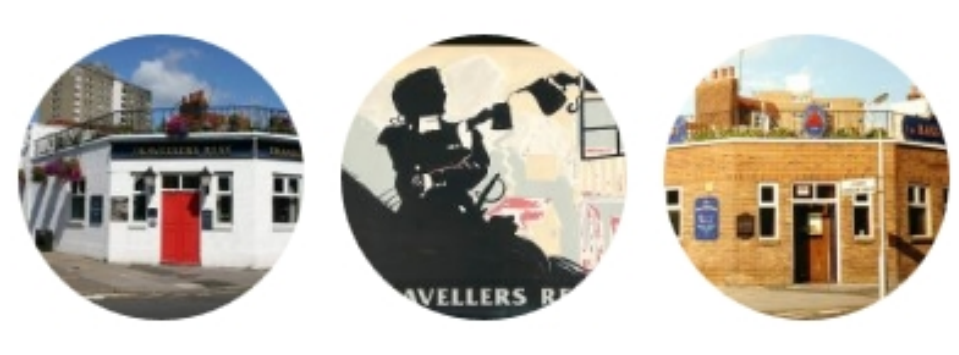
Now one of four former pubs that once stood within a few hundred yards of each other on St Mary's Road, the Traveller's Rest overlooked St Mary's Church from its position at the corner of Woodland Street. Trading from Victorian times, the pub survived until as recently as 1980, when it was converted to a business premises before later becoming the Viking Health Club. The premises is now used as housing.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The Traveller's Rest
117 Somers Road, Southsea

This traditional local featured an unusual single storey area at the front of house – presumably a later extension to compliment the original Cogswell design. The pub had a two bar interior and for many years was owned by Burton brewer Bass – one of only six such pubs in the city in the 1980s. The house has unfortunately stood empty for many years, with no likelihood of it ever reopening.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005; 13th July 2008; 18th February 1990.



The True Blue
1 Landport Street, Southsea

Originally stood on the corner of Landport Street and Hampshire Street, the latter was renamed Lansdowne Street, possibly to avoid confusion with a similarly-named road in Buckland. Little is known about this former pub, save that it sold its last beer in 1931, when it was converted to a private house. Miraculously the premises managed to survive both World War II and the wrath of post-war developers. Now known as Sutton House, it remains an interesting survivor amidst the ugly nearby council properties.

Photographed 1st February 2009.

The True Blue
37 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

Closed for well over a century, the building that once housed the True Blue can still be found at 37 Broad Street, in an area which was once home to dozens of public houses. The pub can be traced as trading until around 1867. Nowadays it is a private house.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – U

LOST PUBS – U

Uncle Tom's Cabin
48 Havant Road, Cosham

Named after the famous novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe, this large early 1960s pub, set back from the roadside, replaced an older tavern of the same name (see gallery below). The replacement pub originally consisted of a public bar and a lounge, though in the late 1980s owner George Gale & Co gave the house a major facelift and reinvented the pub as an open plan, single-roomed bar and eaterie. Its clientele consisted of businessmen and shoppers during the daytime and attracted a younger crowd throughout the evenings, when local bands would sometimes play and quiz nights were held. Unfortunately, the pub began to attract a small number of undesirables on a regular basis and this probably contributed to the pub's eventual closure in the late 1990s. The building still stands and has now been absorbed into the adjacent Cosham Baptist Church.

A number of the photos below show the original Uncle Tom's Cabin, together with another pub, the East Cosham Tavern immediately to the east (see elsewhere for that pub's entry on this site). The colour photos on the bottom row depict the East Cosham Tavern undergoing demolition in the early 1960s, with the replacement Uncle Tom's Cabin stood immediately behind.

Inn sign photographs kindly supplied by Ray Scarfe (dates of images unknown).

Top left-hand photograph by Peter Keat. Bottom row colour photographs ©Peter Barlow.

The Unicorn
158 Fratton Road, Fratton

Located on Fratton Road, at the junction with Sheffield Road, the Unicorn was typical of post war pub architecture in Portsmouth, built cheaply and quickly in a similar design to the Salutation on New Road (see elsewhere on this website). The pub was the second on this site to bear the Unicorn name and a previous tavern called the Old Red House could once be found here. The Unicorn survived far longer than the Webmaster expected – presumably kept in business by a small but faithful band of regulars. The pub finally closed in early 2003 and was demolished late in the same year to make way for new apartments.

Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; November 1998 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Unicorn
1 Unicorn Road, Landport

Situated a stone's throw from the dockyard's Unicorn Gate, this hostelry would doubtless have been a popular haunt of sailors in bygone years. The house underwent alterations for owners PUB when that company acquired the premises from previous owners Isherwood & Williams. Prior to I&W's tenure, the Unicorn was part of the Lush Brewery estate. The tavern survived until around 1956, when this part of Landport was absorbed into the naval dockyard and most of the buildings were demolished.

The Union
366 Fratton Road, Buckland

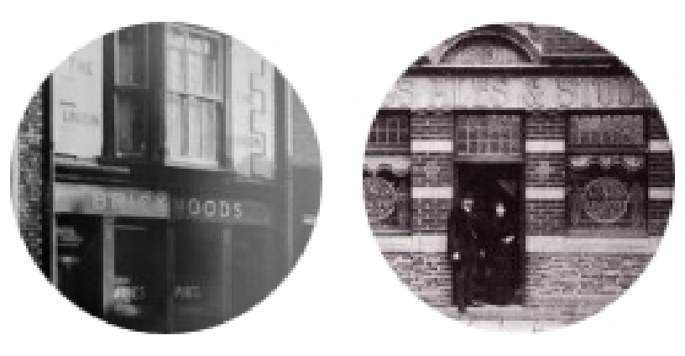
Located at the northern extremity of Fratton Road, opposite the former Tramway Arms (see above), the Union was built in 1911 to a design by architect J J Cotton, replacing another pub of the same name. Standing mid-terrace on a narrow plot, it served its last customers in 1962, when the pub was closed for the final time. Following closure the premises was converted to a shop before later undergoing further alterations to residential accommodation.

Photographed 22nd July 2007.

The Union
25 Union Street, Portsea

Situated in a small road behind Queen Street, the Union traded since at least the late 18th century. Known variously as the Old Union, Union Tavern and Union Tap, the pub was part of the Pike Brewery in the mid 19th century and later became part of the Long's Brewery estate. The pub ceased trading in the 1950s.

The right-hand photograph depicts what is claimed to be an image of the pub, though looking very different from the image on the left. It is known that Long's had the premises either refronted or rebuilt in around 1911, so this could explain the visual difference, although the webmaster is not entirely convinced that these are indeed the same house. No evidence has been found to suggest that Brickwood's were ever owners of the Union Street pub – though this name can clearly be seen in the right-hand photo, which would therefore have to date from pre-1911. Any help in solving this mystery would be most welcome.



The Union Jack
2 Bonfire Corner, Portsea

This old Biden's Brewery pub stood on Bonfire Corner, at its junction with Daniel Street, in an area that was blanketed with public houses frequented by sailors. Indeed, this particular area was synonymous with drunkeness and prostitution – with the Union Jack likely to be one of the houses that saw much of both. For this reason the pub's licence renewel was twice objected to by the local constabulary in 1915 and 1924. It would appear that the second objection was successful, as the Union Jack appears to have ceased trading the same year.

The Union Tavern
65 Broad Street, Old Portsmouth

see The Spice Island Inn (Current Pubs section)

The United Britons
53 Charlotte Street, Landport

One of many taverns that could once be found along the length of Portsmouth's famous market street, the United Britons was originally a Biden's Brewery pub which later became part of the large Portsmouth United estate. The pub survived until 1956, after which much of Charlotte Street saw vast change.

Next Page…

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – V

LOST PUBS – V

The Victoria & Albert
11 The Hard, Portsea

Dating from 1897, the Victoria & Albert was opened by the Lush Brewery and replaced an earlier pub of the same name. Located next door to the Ship Anson, the building was designed by A E Cogswell and was one of a large number of drinking establishments located on The Hard, or Common Hard as it was once named in Victorian times. The pub was leased to Portsmouth United Breweries in 1911 and only survived until 1932, when it was converted to a tobacconists. The building now houses a newsagent and café.

Left-hand photograph 15th July 2007.

The Victoria Hotel
1 Wiltshire Street, Southsea

This 19th century street corner pub was originally known as the *V*olunteer Arms until reopening in 1892 as the Victoria Hotel. The building is a rare survivor among the hundreds of other pubs and beerhouses that could once be found in this part of the city. Virtually all of them have since fallen victim of either the bulldozer or the bomb with only a handful of former pubs still standing in this neighbourhood. The Victoria traded until 1976 when it served its last pints. By 1980 it had been converted into student accommodation. The building sports some interesting architecture and third floor and roof levels.

Left-hand photograph 15th July 2007.

The Victoria Tavern
Battery Row, Old Portsmouth

Stood at the junction of Battery Row and High Street, opposite the Square Tower, this old pub existed in the 1850s and '60s. Today it is a private property by the name of Victoria House.

Photographed 16th March 2015

The Victory Inn
80 Charlotte Street, Landport

Another of Charlotte Street's many public houses – the Victory was an ornately-tiled Brickwood's house that stood on the corner of Conway Street. The pub served its last pints in 1964 and demolition followed soon after, in preparation for the construction of the new Tricorn Centre.

The Viking
165 Arundel Street, Landport

Another post war pub built to service the inhabitants of the sprawling Landport estate, the Viking on Arundel Street finally closed its doors for the final time in 2003. Demolition soon followed and the plot is now home to a small apartment block. This form of pub architecture has since become extinct on Portsea Island, with the last remaining similar pub, the Alexandra on Wingfield Street, being converted to a convenience store in 2013.

Photographs, left to right: 18th February 1990; April 2002 (by Ray Scarfe).

The Villiers Inn
69 Palmerston Road, Southsea

The Villiers Inn opened its doors in early November 2008 – the latest in a growing chain of bars owned by local businessman Mike Hughes. Housed in the former Sur La Mer restaurant premises, the pub consisted of a long, narrow bar room, which was split-level at the rear. The Villiers initially served a good selection of up to six real ales, along with a standard selection of keg beers and lagers, plus a comprehensive wine list, but trade proved to be a lot slower than expected – not helped by a number of other pubs on the same street. The pub changed hands in early 2011 and now trades as a wine bar/bistro.

Photographed 19th November 2008.

The Vine
23 Lombard Street, Old Portsmouth

The Vine can be traced back to the early part of the 18th century, occupying an historic terrace on one of Portsmouth's most well-preserved streets. One of at least four pubs to have traded on this road, the Vine can nowadays be identified by its prominent name above the entrance door to what is now a private residence. A Pike Spicer pub for much of its later life, the tavern had become part of Brickwood's estate by 1910 and served its last pints in 1916.

Photographed 16th March 2015

Next Page...

Browse: Home ~ Lost Pubs – W

LOST PUBS – W

The Warriors Arms
76 Highbury Street (formerly St Mary's Street), Old Portsmouth

This 19th century beerhouse was owned by United Breweries and located next door to John Pounds' workshop. The pub ceased trading in 1934, was delicenced and converted to a residential property. It was later demolished.

The Waterloo Inn
83 Commercial Road (now 4-6 Guildhall Walk), Landport

Occupying the premises immediately next door to the Nine Elms Tavern, the Waterloo Inn was owned by the Simmonds Brewery in the late nineteenth century. By the 1930s it had become part of the Brickwood's estate, passing into the hands of Whitbread in 1971. The pub survived until 1976 and swiftly fell into dereliction. By 1990 it had been restored as a nightclub and later became part of the Ellie Jays 'fun pub'. Nowadays it houses the Fuzzy nightclub.

Photographed 18th March 2007.

The Welcome Home
60 Kilmiston Road, Fratton

This Victorian street corner local was located off Fratton Road at 60 Kilmiston Street and was part of the Peters Brewery estate. The pub lasted until the late 1920s. The pub, along with the street itself, has long since disappeared from the map.

The Western
21 Queen Street, Portsea

This street corner pub started life as the Lion in 1858 and also spent some years as the Red Lion. In 1906 it was renamed the Western after the licensee. Originally owned by the Pike Brewery, it later became part of the Brickwood's chain. The pub lasted only a short time after this photograph was taken, during World War II, as it was the victim of a bombing raid in 1944. The pub was eventually rebuilt and reopened as the Blue Anchor (see elsewhere in the Lost Pubs section of this site).

The Wheatsheaf
41 (73) Hyde Park Road, Southsea

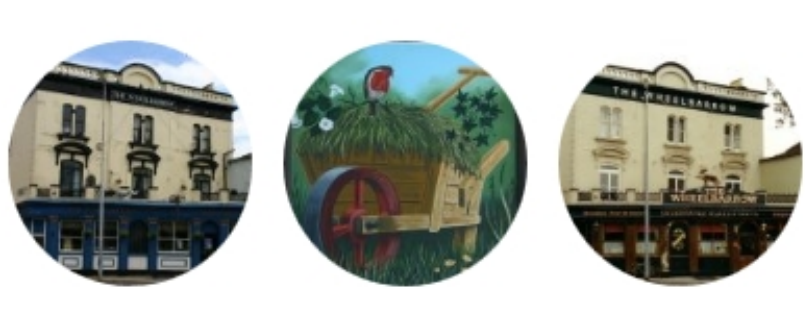
Situated at the junction of Hyde Park Road and the long-gone Marylebone Street, the Wheatsheaf was owned in Victorian times by John Anderson of the tiny Newtown Brewery on Commercial Road. The original pub was demolished and rebuilt in 1904 to a design by Arthur Cogswell for Portsmouth United Breweries. Later owned by Brickwood's, the pub closed in 1954. The Wheatsheaf stood immediately north of what is now Winston Churchill Avenue, close to the Magistrates' Court.

The Wheelbarrow
1 Kent Road, Southsea

This 18th century inn was one of the oldest in Portsmouth and was once known as Wheelbarrow Cottage. Later the Castle Hotel, it was around the turn of the 20th century that the pub received the extension at the front of the building. Known for a brief spell as Wheelies in the 1980s, the pub thankfully regained its proper name later that decade. However, another name change courtesy of Whitbread's marketing department came in the mid '90s when the house reopened as part of the short-lived Tut 'n' Shive chain before once again reverting to its proper name.

Throughout the early 21st century the pub became increasingly rundown and, presumably due to poor marketing, wasn't able to capitalize on its prominent position facing Southsea Common. By October 2009 the upper floors were being stripped out for refurbishment and it was rumoured that the bar area would follow suit that winter. Sadly, nothing came of this and the pub stood empty for another year. By July 2011 the Wheelbarrow had reopened as a licensed coffee house by the name of Sellers, acknowledging the fact that actor and comedian Peter Sellers was born in the house opposite. In 2013 Sellers was relaunched as Reykjavík 101 – an Icelandic themed café bar selling bottled beers from Icelandic brewers. Even this guise was short-lived, with the foreign theme being dropped in late 2014 for a return to the Sellers name.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 2005;13th July 2008; 11th May 1989.



The Whitehall
215 Kingston Road, Buckland

Yet another pub situated on Kingston Road, Buckland, the Whitehall was one of three that closed its doors around the turn of the 21st century, suffering an arson attack shortly afterwards. However, the bar was refitted internally but remained empty for over three years after. A planning application to erect new flats on the site was submitted in 2005 and demolition followed in August of that year.

Photographs, left to right: 14th August 1988; June 1995 (by Ray Scarfe).

The White Bear
187 Queen Street, Portsea

A pub by the name of the White Bear can be traced back on Queen Street to the late 18th century. It was known to have been owned by the Bransbury Brewery prior to 1880 before being taken over by Brickwood's for the remainder of its life. The house survived until 1956, at a time when many of Portsea's pubs were rapidly disappearing.

The White Hart
5 Britain Street, Portsea

This 19th century three storey, street corner local was once part of the Jewell's Brewery estate, later passing to Brickwood's and thereafter Mew Langton of Arundel Street (in whose livery the pub appears in the photograph below). Located on the corner of Dean Street, in an area which is today unrecognisable from that shown in the photo, the pub traded until the early 1970s, by which time it had been inherited by national brewer Whitbread. By 1973 the house stood derelict following a fire and was eventually demolished, along with the majority of the surrounding buildings, in order for the area to be redeveloped.

The White Hart
Kingston Cross, North End

This imposing building is a familiar sight to the thousands of motorists and pedestrians that pass through Kingston Cross on a daily basis. The present building dates from 1938 and was designed for Brickwood's by Portsmouth's most famous pub architect A E Cogswell, replacing an earlier pub of the same name (see separate entry below). The buiding survived as a pub until 1977, at which time it was converted to offices and renamed Anchor House. The right-hand photograph is worth comparing to the similarly-designed Cumberland Tavern, which is pictured elsewhere in the Lost Pubs section of this website.

Colour photograph 15th July 2007.

The White Hart
27 The Hard, Portsea

Yet another pub that could once be found on The Hard, the White Hart stood next to the Keppel's Head Hotel. A pub by this name can be traced back on this site as far as the late 18th century, at a time when the majority of buildings on this street were public houses (due to the proximity of the adjacent naval dockyard). The pub closed many decades ago and was converted to other use. However, the building was purchased in 1997 by the licensee of the neighbouring Lady Hamilton, with a view to converting the building back to a pub once more. This plan sadly never came to fruition and the premises changed hands once again, being reopened as a betting shop in 2002.

Photographed 15th July 2007.

The White Hart Hotel
116 Kingston Crescent, North End

The White Hart existed on this site, close to the junction with London Road, since the early 18th century. The building depicted in the photograph lasted until the 1930s and was rebuilt in 1938 in a bolder style by architect A E Cogswell (see separate entry above). Once part of the Pike Brewery estate, the hotel later became part of Brickwood's, as shown here. Note the small coaching entrance, with the wording "Good stabling storage for cycles" written above.

The White House
74/76 Ernest Road, Kingston

The White House stood mid-terrace on Ernest Road and traded until 1982. Converted by Cogswell for Portsmouth United Breweries from two houses in the first decade of the 20th century, the glazed brickwork, pub name and PUB cypher is still prominent at first floor level, along with its original decorative finials at roof height. The pub later became part of Brickwood's large estate, as seen in the centre photograph. Following closure, the pub was converted to flats.

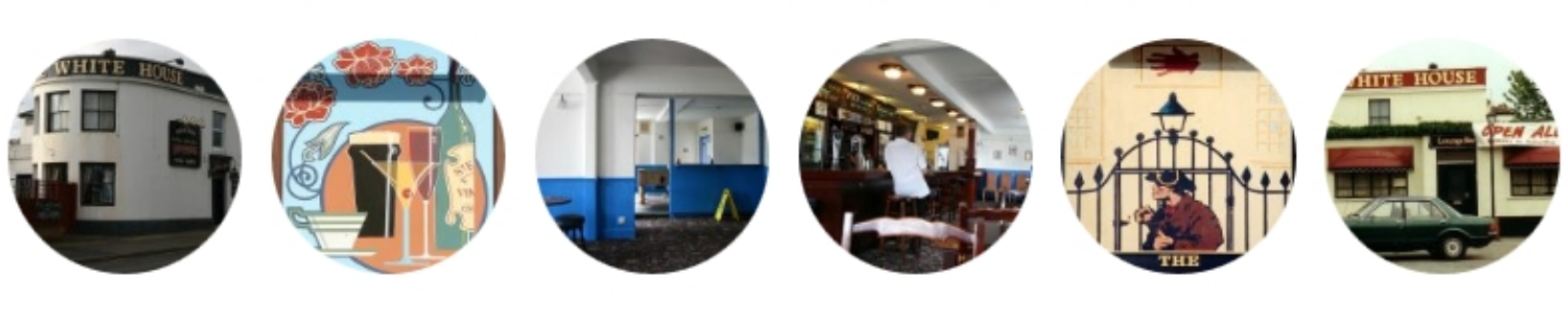
Colour photograph 14th August 2005.

The White House
Eastney Road, Milton

This prominent Victorian tavern sited at a busy road junction retained its name for around 150 years. The pub once stood on the abandoned Portsmouth and Arundel Canal. The pub was frequented mostly by locals, though its sizeable car park meant that it was sometimes able to take advantage of passing trade. The pub retained separate lounge and public bars, plus a pool room, though the interior as a whole became rather spartan in latter years, with the walls painted in a bright blue and white combination (see photos) lending a rather cold feel to the pub.

The pub underwent a change of management in June 2011, though sadly was unable to attract any increase in clientele. The freehold was put on the market in August 2011, with offers in the region of £450,000 being invited – making the pub a decidedly unattrative proposition as a going concern to any potential purchaser. Ass a consequence the inevitable closure soon followed. Demolition crews moved in during March of 2013 and the large plot of land was used to build as many residential properties as possible.

Photographs, left to right: 3rd January 2005; 13th July 2008; 11th August 2011; 11th August 2011; September 1998 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.



The White Lion
386 Commercial Road, Landport

The White Lion was located on the corner of Providence Place, where the conservation area of Old Commercial Road can now be found. The pub passed through the hands of breweries such as Allen's, United and Brickwood's until last orders was finally called some time in the 1960s. The building was demolished in June of 1971.

The Wig & Pen
1 Landport Terrace, Southsea

One of Portsmouth's most attractive pubs, this house was originally known as the Balmoral, as shown in the black and white photographs below. This name survived for well over one hundred years. In 1982 it became the Wig & Pen (its name reflecting the large number of solicitors' offices nearby) and was successfully run by local beer champion Tony Mitchell and his wife, Wendy. Sadly, the pub company that owned the Wig & Pen at that time did not share the Mitchells' interest in quality real ales and continually tried to prevent the licensees from serving beers that had been sourced outside the company's portfolio. This led to the inn sign being removed by the Mitchells and replaced with one depicting a white elephant, to symbolise what they and their regulars believed (prophetically) what the house would become if it lost its interesting range of ales.

Soon after, the Mitchells departed to run their own free house nearby and the Wig & Pen was subsequently ruined by the pubco, that chose to rename it Seamus O'Donnell's – adopting a fake Irish theme. Thankfully, as predicted by the Mitchells and their customers, this guise lasted only a few years due to a lack of custom and the pub thankfully reverted to the Wig & Pen. The house thereafter become a popular venue and began to gain a reputation for its quality home cooked food.

As the UK economy began to slide, the pub changed hands a number of times during its last five years of trading – and opening times began to become somewhat hit-and-miss – something that didn't help the pub build a sustained trade. In 2012 the ground floor was converted to a café, with the upper storeys becoming private flats.

Colour photographs, left to right: 4th February 2007; April 2002 (by Ray Scarfe); 11th May 1989.

The Windmill
8 Elm Road, Mile End

Dating from Victorian times, this small street corner local could be found at the junction of Elm Road and Grafton Street, a short distance from the Market House Tavern. Originally a Jewell's Brewery pub, the house became part of the Brickwood estate in 1899, with whom it remained until serving its final pints. The Windmill was demolished in 1970 – the area soon after becoming home to the hideous Estella Road flats that blight the approach into the city centre to this day.

Photograph kindly supplied by Glenn Eves.

The Windmill & Sawyer
30 Copenhagen Street, Landport

This three-storey cornerhouse stood at the junction of Copenhagen Street and Unicorn Road, directly outside the dockyard's Unicorn Gate. This proximity means that it must once have been extremely busy with dockers and naval ratings in bygone years. Dating from the mid 19th century, the house served its last customers in 1967, after which it was demolished to make way for the eastward expansion of the dockyard.

Photograph kindly supplied by J Taylor.

The Wonkey Donkey
13 Victoria Road South, Southsea

Opened in 2004 in the former Rickshaw's restaurant, this long, narrow bar room had a large number of television screens dotted around the walls. A pool table could be found at the rear and the bar counter ran along the right-hand wall, opposite which was the main seating area. The pub had a varied clientele, though leant mainly toward younger drinkers. One real ale was available when the Webmaster visited the premises on opening night. By November 2007 the pub, along with its sister bar next door, was closed and undergoing conversion to what became the Fat Fox pub.

Photographed 19th September 2004.

The Wymering
113 Medina Road, Wymering

This traditional, 1930s estate pub situated close to the Old Wymering conservation area in Cosham ceased trading in late 2010, being a victim of the recession and subsequent governments' seemingly tireless campaigns to kill off the UK pub trade by way of draconian taxes. Once a Whitbread house, the pub spent its last years in the hands of national pubco Punch Taverns before being sold off to developers.

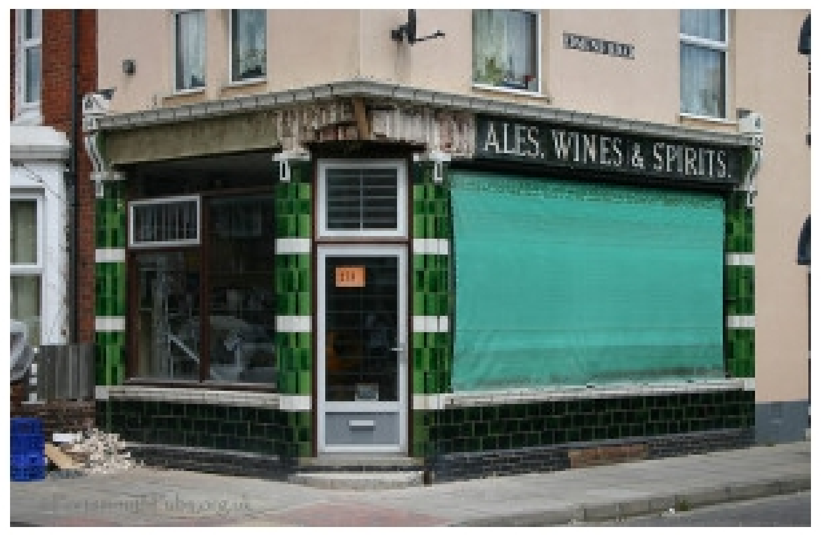
The pub was earmarked for redevelopment in 2011 and this was fought by local residents, in an effort to keep the building standing for use by the community. The battle was sadly lost and by mid 2012 the Wymering had been demolished to make way for yet more flats.

Left-hand photograph 11th March 2007.

Next Page...

HISTORIC OFF LICENCES

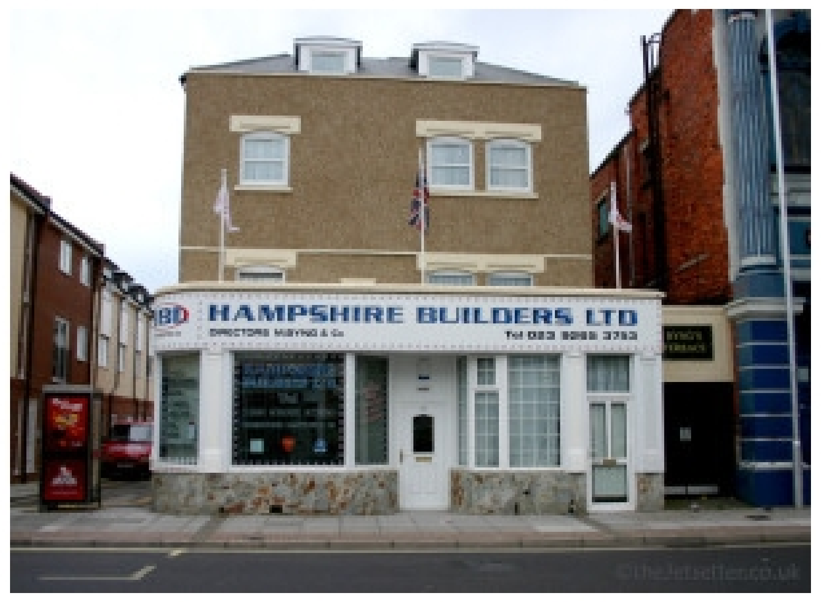
273 Fawcett Road, Southsea



This premises was never a public house, however it was once a Wine & Spirit Merchant's shop, owned by Portsmouth's long-defunct *Long's Brewery*. In 1918 it was known to have been run by a Mr Henry Baskett. In June 2008, the premises underwent 'refurbishment' by new owners. Rather tragically, the building contractors saw fit to remove the historic *Long's* tiled fascia, telling the Webmaster that this was necessary due to damp penetration. Make of that what you will, but one thing is for sure…this was a terrible shame. Sadly the Webmaster was unable to get to the site in time to photograph the intact frontage, though is thankful to have managed to capture its partial remains.

Thanks go to Jenny Boulter for the tip-off that led to this photograph, taken 13th June 2008.

The Kingston Stores
219/221 Kingston Road, Buckland



Until recently located adjacent to the *Whitehall* pub on the opposite corner of Malthouse Lane, the latter was demolished to make way for a new apartment block in 2007. It was shortly before the demolition that *Hampshire Builders* renewed the fascia board of their property to reveal the fact that the building was at one time a licenced premises, owned by the once-adjacent *Kingston Brewery*. The name *Hammerton* appears prominently on the front of the property, this being the name of the London-based owners of the brewery and bottling store between 1917 and 1953. The company was later taken over by *Charrington* of East London.

Top photograph 15th July 2007.
Photographs below kindly supplied by Roger & Trish Lovell.

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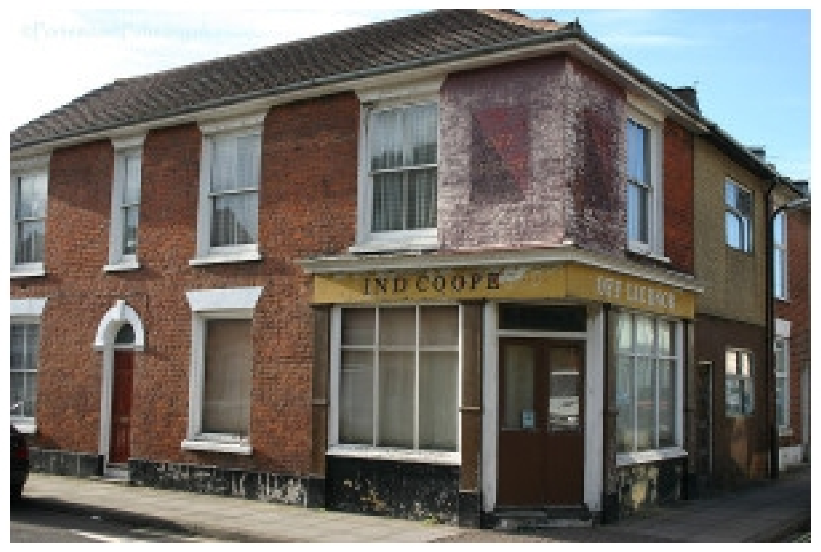
46 Langley Road, Buckland



This historic former corner shop located at the junction of Langley Road and Malta Road is a rare example of the kind of traditional off licence that was once common across the city of Portsmouth. Still prominently displaying the name of Burton brewers *Ind Coope* on its fascia, the premises also sports the livery of former Guildford brewer *Friary Mew* at first floor level, albeit rather faded after many years of weathering. The property is recorded in *Kelly's Directory* as being owned by 'Grocer and Beer Retailer' Walter George Fleming in 1918.